



Bangla appeal beyond DRC remit

Scotland to be named as replacement by Saturday

P16

DH *on* Saturday



DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Upset over Rahul's 'snub', Tharoor skips Cong's Kerala strategy meet



SHREE SAI GOLD PALACE

NOW IN
KANAKAPURA MAIN ROAD
RAGHUVANAHALLI (NEAR VAJARAHALLI METRO STATION)

**NEVER BEFORE
NEVER AGAIN
INAUGURAL OFFERS**



GET
0%

MAKING CHARGES ON
GOLD JEWELLERY
JOIN OUR SHREE SAI
AKSHAYA GOLD
ADVANCE PURCHASE
PLAN

GET
₹5,000
DISCOUNT

ON PURCHASE
OF 1 KG SILVER
ARTICLES

GET
₹5,000
DISCOUNT

ON PURCHASE OF
GOLD JEWELLERY
FOR EVERY
10GMS

GET
₹10,000
DISCOUNT

ON PURCHASE OF
EVERY 1 CT OF DIAMOND
JEWELLERY

GET
10%
DISCOUNT

ON PURCHASE OF
SILVER JEWELLERY

OFFER VALID TILL FEB 10TH



SCAN FOR
LOCATION

BASAVANAGUDI | HSR LAYOUT | YELAHANKA | K.R. PURAM | NAGARABHAVI | MALLESHWARAM | KANAKAPURA ROAD | BENGALURU

TOLL FREE : 1800 203 4323

Modi vows jail for those behind Sabarimala gold theft

Accuses LDF, UDF of appeasement politics; calls for 3rd front in Kerala

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said all those involved in the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold theft would be jailed once the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) came to power in Kerala.

“The Left Front government could not protect the beliefs surrounding the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple. Now, Lord Ayyappa’s gold is also being stolen. Once the NDA comes to power in Kerala, a detailed probe will be conducted, and all those involved in the theft will be jailed. This is Modi’s guarantee,” he said at a public meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday, held to mark the BJP’s maiden victory in the Thiruvananthapuram city corporation last month.

Ahead of his address, Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar asked why the key accused in the case visited Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The gold theft will be a key issue for the BJP to raise ahead of the upcoming Kerala Assembly election.

Meanwhile, accusing the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) of stalling Kerala’s progress by indulging in “appeasement politics”, Modi called for bringing the NDA to power in the state.

“The Congress and the Left may have different jhanda (flags), but they share the same agenda. They have been

POLL PROMISE

■ Modi vows probe, jail for all involved in Sabarimala case if NDA wins Kerala

■ Says Congress & Left have different flags but same agenda

■ Says BJP will come to power in Kerala after winning local-body polls, just as it did in Gujarat

indulging in corruption and appeasement politics. Even though the Left was wiped out in Tripura and Bengal, they continue to survive in Kerala due to the LDF-UDF adjustment politics. It is time for the people to choose a third alternative—the NDA,” he said.

He alleged that the Congress was becoming more communal than the Muslim League and adopting more extreme positions than the Maoists. “The Congress is now being termed MMC — Muslim League Maoist Congress.”

The PM also accused the LDF government of denying the people the benefits of Central schemes such as PMSHRI.

Corporation win

Modi expressed confidence that the BJP’s victory in the Thiruvananthapuram corporation would pave the way for the party to come to power in Kerala, just as it had in Gujarat, where the BJP won the Ahmedabad civic body in 1987 before forming the state government.

“Thiruvananthapuram will be made a model city for the whole country,” Modi said, adding in Malayalam, “Marathathu ini marum” (What has not changed so far will now change).

BJP state leaders had earlier announced that if the party won the city corporation, the PM would visit the city within 45 days to unveil development plans for the state capital.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets people during a roadshow upon his arrival in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. PTI

PM flags off three new trains

NEW DELHI, DHNS: With Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging off three Amrit Bharat Express trains from Thiruvananthapuram on Friday, the total number of such trains in operation across the Indian Railways network has risen to 27, offering 54 services.

The Prime Minister flagged off the Thiruvananthapuram–Charlapalli Amrit Bharat Express, the Thiruvananthapuram–Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express, and the Nagercoil–Mangaluru Amrit Bharat Express.

Modi first flagged off the Amrit Bharat Express on December 30, 2023, with the train entering commercial service on January 1, 2024.

The Amrit Bharat Express is a superfast, non-air-conditioned service operated by Indian Railways, offering sleeper and unreserved coaches on routes that typically take more than ten hours to travel.

Each train set comprises 22 coaches with a capacity of over 1,800 passengers. The trains are equipped with amenities including fire-resistant seats.

Class 6 boy wins Modi’s heart with sketch



Sidharth with PM’s sketch.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A Class 6 student won Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s heart with his portrait.

Among the hundreds who turned up for Modi’s public meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday, Sidharth caught Modi’s attention as he was standing on a chair raising the PM’s portrait.

Amidst his speech, Modi asked the boy whether he was not getting tired after standing on the chair and raising the pic-

Pinarayi slams BJP’s silence over pastor’s assault in Odisha

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan criticised the silence of the BJP-led government over the alleged assault of a pastor in Odisha over charges of religious conversions.

Vijayan said in a social media post that even 27 years after the murder of Graham Staines, the same forces of intolerance continue to operate with impunity.

“The brutal assault on a pastor in Odisha is not an isolated crime; it reflects the atmosphere of violence and hatred being systematically fostered by the Sangh Parivar. Forcing a human being to eat cow dung is a deeply inhuman act, emboldened by the silence and complicity of BJP-led governments,” he said.

According to the complaint by the pastor’s wife, a group of 15 to 20 people attacked his house when he was praying. The mob smeared him with vermilion and forced him to eat cow dung. He was also compelled to bow before a temple. (With PTI inputs)

Upset over Rahul’s ‘snub’, Tharoor skips Cong’s Kerala strategy meet

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Igniting fresh trouble in the Congress’ Kerala unit, senior MP Shashi Tharoor on Friday skipped a meeting convened by the central leadership to fine-tune the strategy for the Assembly elections, apparently upset over Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi ignoring him at a recent party function.

However, sources said Venugopal informed the meeting at the outset that Tharoor had conveyed his unavailability in advance, citing the release of his two books at a literature festival.

The meeting of senior Kerala leaders was convened by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, with state president Sunny Joseph, legislature party leader VD Satheesan and Congress Working Committee member Ramesh Chennithala among those invited. Tharoor was also invited but did not attend. Rahul Gandhi and General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal were present at the meeting.

Sources said Tharoor’s absence had to do more with Rahul not acknowledging him at the party’s ‘Maha Panchayat’ programme held in Kochi on January 19 to felicitate local body poll winners. Rahul also



UNEASY TIES

■ Congress cites book release commitments

■ Kharge, Rahul attend Kerala Congress meet

■ Sources say Tharoor was ignored by Rahul at an event

did not mention Tharoor while acknowledging others.

As controversy erupted over his absence, there was an attempt to downplay it, with Congress Kerala chief Sunny Joseph saying that Tharoor had prior engagements.

At a party leaders’ recent conclave in Wayanad, reports suggested that Kerala leaders had come together to fight the elections unitedly. Leaders also held discussions with Tharoor, where he made it clear that he was not interested in contesting the elections.

Tharoor has been at loggerheads with the Congress leadership for some time, and his comments and positions on various issues have irked the party.

Tirumala ghee probe: 36 named in final chargesheet

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT), led by the CBI, has wrapped up its probe into the alleged adulteration of ghee used in Tirumala Srivari laddus, and filed its final chargesheet in the Nellore ACB Court on Friday after a 15-month investigation spanning 12 states.

Directors of Uttarakhand-based Bhole Baba Organic Dairy, Pomil Jain and Vipin Jain, surfaced as the main orchestrators of the large-scale organised adulteration. Originally traced to Tamil Nadu, the racket involved chemical adulteration and suspicious fund flows from temple sources.

The chargesheet lists 36 accused, 24 named initially and 12 more identified later. All have been arrested, with three still in judicial custody without bail.

Senior Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) officials, including two ex-gen-

THE FINDINGS

■ Investigation took 15 months, spanned 12 states

■ 36 accused include 24 named initially, 12 identified later

■ Major failures in ghee quality checks found

eral managers from procurement and marketing, face charges alongside staffers now held at the Nellore Central Jail. Key figures, like former TTD chairman’s aide Chinnappa Appanna and Ajay Kumar Sugandh, remain behind bars.

The findings highlight major failures in ghee quality checks, with private dairies bypassing TTD standards. Several arrested dairy owners gained conditional bail, but must attend the ongoing inquiries.

The SIT even found that suppliers manufactured ghee between 2019 and 2024 without procuring any milk.

Ahead of polls, Cong tells leaders to project unity

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Congress top leadership instructed its Kerala unit to enter poll mode by projecting a “united face” under “collective leadership” at a meeting that saw senior leader Shashi Tharoor skip the deliberations.

Sources said the Kerala leaders were told that they must fight the polls unitedly under a collective leadership at a time when ground reports suggest that the party-led UDF could win the elections. Rahul reportedly made it clear that the CM face will be decided only after elections.

Sources said the Kerala leadership has been given a “free hand” in candidate selection and asked to conclude negotiations with allies at the earliest.

Kharge told the leaders not to squander the opportunity to win the elections by engaging in inner-party conflicts.

Kharge posted on X, “3.6 crore people of Kerala are yearning for change. The Congress... along with our partners in the UDF are determined to ensure progressive, welfare-based governance.”

Venugopal told reporters that the UDF would win over 100 seats in Kerala.

SC pulls up Madras HC over order for speedy trial of YouTuber

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has expressed its surprise over the Madras High Court’s order for filing chargesheets against YouTuber ‘Savukku’ Shankar in pending investigations and for the completion of trials within a timeframe, nullifying the investigating officer’s discretion and rendering the concept of fair trial a nullity.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma recently set aside the HC’s July 29, 2025, order, calling it “absolutely unwarranted”.

“Other than very extreme cases, HCs ought to exercise restraint and not issue directions that foreclose the discretion of the executive,” it said. It said that if HCs make a direction that chargesheets should be filed upon conclusion of investigation or that a trial be concluded within a particular timeframe, without even attempting to ascertain the stage the trial has reached, the consequences could be far-reaching.

3-4 people dying by suicide in Bengal daily over SIR anxiety: CM

KOLKATA, PTI: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday claimed three to four people were dying by suicide every day in West Bengal due to anxiety over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, underway in the state ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls.

Banerjee, at a programme at Red Road here marking the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, asserted that the Election Commission and the Central government must take responsibility for the deaths.

“More than 110 people have already died; every day, three to four people are dying by suicide out of SIR anxiety... 40-45 more people are fighting for their lives in hospitals. After all these years, we have to prove whether we are citizens of this country?” she asked.



Mamata Banerjee

Will build grand temple at Bhojshala: VHP

DHAR (MP), PTI: The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Friday declared its resolve to build a grand temple of Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati) at the contested Bhojshala complex in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh by 2034 after completing due legal process.

The proposed shrine will be on the lines of the Ram Temple constructed at the deity’s birthplace at Ayodhya and will house the consecrated idol of Goddess Vagdevi, which is currently in a London museum, said VHP International president Alok Kumar. Currently, the disputed complex is protected by the ASI.

DMK biggest enemy of Tamil culture: PM

Says ‘countdown’ to Stalin’s government has commenced

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
MADURANTHAKAM (TN), DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday termed the ruling DMK as the “biggest enemy of Tamil culture” for refusing to implement a court order to light a lamp atop the Murugan Temple in Thiruparankundram and for moving an impeachment notice against the judge to “appease their vote bank”.

Sharing the dais with NDA leaders, including AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami and AMMK’s TTV Dhinakaran, Modi said the “countdown” to MK Stalin’s government has commenced and asked the people of the state to vote for a “double-engine” NDA government.

Modi’s rally not just kicked off the NDA’s election cam-



A BJP worker displays portraits of PM Modi during his campaign in Madurantakam. PTI

paign, but also busted the image that the alliance was a “non-starter” and that the AIADMK-BJP could not cobble together a strong coalition against the formidable DMK combine. He shared the dais with leaders of half a dozen political parties.

Modi emphasised that it would be an NDA government, not one led by the AIADMK. However, the banners and the presence of allies such as Dhinakaran, PMK’s Anbumani Ramadoss and BJP’s K Annamalai — who declared it was their duty to make the

Double-engine rhetoric won’t work in TN: Stalin

Reacting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “double-engine” government pitch, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said the duppa engine (waste box) rhetoric will not work in the state, which has achieved growth in all parameters despite obstacles from the BJP-led Centre. Stalin said the people of

Tamil Nadu will not forget the betrayal being inflicted on them despite the BJP’s efforts to “hide” it. “Compared to the ‘double-engine’ states — be it Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh or Bihar — Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and West Bengal are soaring ahead in development,” he told Modi.

AIADMK leader chief minister again — dispelled any doubts about the face of the alliance in Tamil Nadu.

While the BJP insists it will be an NDA government, the AIADMK maintains that it will form the new dispensation on its own.

The highlight of the rally was the coming together of Dhinakaran and Palaniswami, who shared the dais and met face-to-face for the first time in eight years — sending a strong message of unity within the

NDA. Dhinakaran said he had “wholeheartedly” endorsed EPS as the NDA’s chief ministerial face. The two leaders later addressed a press conference sitting side by side, with Palaniswami asserting that there should be “no doubt” about the unity of the NDA after Friday’s meeting.

On the temple issue, Modi said when a “manufactured controversy” arose over the lighting of the lamp, NDA leaders stood up for the rights of devotees.

WINTER WONDER

Kashmir gets snowfall after long dry spell

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

After a prolonged dry spell, most parts of Kashmir on Friday received fresh snowfall, including the season’s first snow in Srinagar city, throwing normal life out of gear across the Valley.

The snowfall led to the closure of the Srinagar–Jammu national highway, cancellation of flights, while preceding gusty winds disrupted electricity in several areas, officials said.

While the plains of Kashmir recorded light to moderate snowfall, the upper reaches and higher-altitude areas witnessed moderate to heavy snowfall, they added.

The sudden change in weather marked a significant shift after weeks of dry conditions, raising hopes among farmers and tourism stakeholders even as it posed immediate challenges for commuters and authorities.

Heavy snowfall transformed the Valley into a winter wonderland, with the ski resort of Gulmarg and higher-altitude areas in

Vehicles stranded on the Rajouri-Kotranka road amid heavy snowfall on Friday. PTI

Kupwara, Baramulla and Shopian blanketed in a thick layer of fresh snow. Roads, open fields, orchards, and rooftops were covered in white, creating picturesque scenes that drew awe from residents and visitors alike.

The snowfall also led to widespread disruption. The Srinagar–Jammu national highway, the Valley’s only all-weather road link, was closed due to accumulation of snow at several stretches. Flight operations at Srinagar airport were suspended over poor visibility.

Family seeks action after tragedy strikes Meitei-Kuki couple

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

When conflict between the Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur broke out in 2023, Mayanlambam Rishikanta Singh, a Meitei man, was preparing to marry Chingnu Hakip, a Kuki. But the violence left the families with no choice but to postpone the wedding.

Despite the divide between the two communities, the 38-year-old Rishikanta remained determined to go ahead with the marriage. But with tensions persisting for more than two and a half years, Chingnu asked him to visit her parents’ home in the Kuki-dominated Churachandpur. Rishikanta went to her house on December 19, 2025.

On Jan 21, the couple was allegedly abducted from Chingnu’s home by suspected Kuki armed men. A day later, Rishikanta was shot dead. A video showed him pleading with folded hands before being shot by assailants. There were reports that Chingnu secured “permission” from Kuki groups for his visit. The Kuki National Organisation rejected this and denied involvement in the killing.

Rishikanta’s family took to the streets on Friday, demanding action against Kuki insurgents. They refused to accept his body until the assailants were arrested. On Friday, the Manipur Government announced an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased.



Trump says US ‘armada’ is heading to Iran

P10

DH *on* Saturday



DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good



Adani group stocks nosedive 13% amid US SEC summons

P10



Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister, Gol



HOUSING DEPARTMENT
KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD



Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister



Guarantee Government
A progressive Government
Now provides home to the homeless

Several measures have been taken to provide a proper shelter for the people dwelling in slums in the State. The State government is formulating and implementing many ambitious programmes for slum dwellers. KSDB evolving various befitting schemes to provide House for all homeless thereby fulfilling the dream of owning a house. This is yet another testimony for the fulfillment of the present Government's guarantees.

Sri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Hon'ble Housing Minister
and Sri Prasad Abbayya, Chairman,
Karnataka Slum Development Board
inspecting the constructed houses at Hubballi.

Dedication of
42345 Houses
(2nd Stage)
out of 1,80,253 houses being constructed across the State under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana 'Shelter for All' through **Grant-in-Aid of Hon'ble Chief Minister**

&

Distribution of
House Allotment
Letters / Title Deeds
on the occasion of **Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Board**

Date: 24-01-2026, Saturday
Time: 11:00 AM
Venue: Mantur Road, Hubballi

Inauguration of Programme & Dedication of Houses by
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

In the August presence of

Sri Pralhad Joshi
Hon'ble Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New and Renewable Energy Government of India

Dr. Mallikarjun Kharge
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition
Rajya Sabha

Sri Rahul Gandhi
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition
Lok Sabha

Distribution of House Allotment Letters / Title Deeds by
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Major and Medium Irrigation and Bengaluru Urban Development, Government of Karnataka

In the presence of

Sri Basavaraj Horatti
Hon'ble Chairman
Karnataka Legislative Council

Presided by

Sri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Wakf and Minorities Welfare & Vijayanagara & Ballari District in-charge Minister, Government of Karnataka

Chief Guests

Sri Santhosh S. Lad
Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Dharwad District in-charge Minister Government of Karnataka

Sri R. Ashoka
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition
Karnataka Legislative Assembly

Sri Chalavadi T. Narayanaswamy
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition
Karnataka Legislative Council

Sri Saleem Ahmed
Hon'ble Chief Whip
Karnataka Legislative Council

Courteous presence of

Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS
Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka

Introductory Speech and Distribution of Mementos on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration of the Board

Sri Prasad Abbayya
Hon'ble Chairman,
Karnataka Slum Development Board & MLA, Hubballi-Dharwad East Assembly Constituency

and all the Ministers of the State, Hon'ble Members of Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha, Hon'ble MLAs / MLCs, Chairman & Vice-Chairman and Members of Board/Corporations and elected representatives of local bodies will present in the programme.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Mohan Raj. K.P, IAS
Secretary to Government
Housing Department

Parashurama Shinnalkar, KAS (Supertime Scale)
Managing Director
Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Ltd.

Raghavendra. T., KAS (Supertime Scale)
Commissioner
Karnataka Slum Development Board

After six years, Bengaluru finally on poll mode

With draft electoral rolls released, Bengaluru’s 2026 municipal elections face scrutiny over delimitation, reservations, voter verification, and ballot-based voting

BENGALURU, DHNS

After six years of administration without elected leaders, Bengaluru is now expected to hold municipal elections in May 2026. But there is one big difference: The upcoming elections will help voters elect representatives for five separate corporations rather than a unified BBMP.

The draft electoral rolls for the five newly formed corporations were published this week. The city of Bengaluru has a population of approximately 1.4 crore, out of which a total of 88,91,411 voters have been recorded in the list. The draft electoral rolls were prepared with October 1, 2025, as the qualifying date. The rolls include 45,69,193 male voters, 43,20,583 female voters, and 1,635 other voters, totalling 88,91,411 voters.

Citizens have been asked to verify whether their names appear on the draft electoral rolls and submit applications immediately to get their names included from January 20 to February 3, 2026. During the same time period, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will visit households for verification.

The disposal of claims and objections will be done from February 4 to February 18, 2026, and the final electoral rolls will be published on March 16, 2026.

Among all wards, Ward No 23 of Bengaluru West City Corporation has the highest number of voters, with 49,530, while Ward No 16 of Bengaluru East City Corporation has the lowest, with 10,926. A total of 8,044 polling stations will be set up across the 369 wards, according to the State Election Commission.

“A proper BLO-based revision needs to take place, as a special intensive revision. Officials must visit every home and verify the voter list before releasing it. It has not happened so far. They have left it for people to come back with their feedback. Such revisions should have happened prior to the publication of draft rolls,” observes R Rajagopalan, convener of Bengaluru Coalition.

“There are data issues in the voting list.

Intensive revision helps eliminate them. From the outset, the whole process, including delimitation, has been unscientific. Delimitation was done in closed-door sessions with some officials. The logic and the basis of that delimitation have never been shared. The input data for the delimitation not been shared. So, there is opacity in the delimitation itself,” he explains. He feels the revised list after delimitation requires a correction time period.

Reservation roster

In the past, reservations for various wards were one of the issues that stalled the process, as they were contested by various affected parties. In the last reservation roster exercise done in 2022, the criterion was the population. The BBMP had Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) data from the 2011 census, but none for backward classes. To decide the percentages of seats to be reserved for OBCs, the government constituted the Justice K Bhaktavatsala Commission of Inquiry for OBC Reservation in Local Body Elections in Karnataka in May 2022.

The Commission report submitted in July 2022 upheld the reservation of 1/3rd of the total seats in favour of OBCs in local body elections, including the BBMP polls. In August 2022, the state government finalised the ward-wise reservation list for the BBMP. The reservation committee fixed reservations for women and OBC by a process called randomisation, in the absence of any other reliable ratio. This was contested again.

The BBMP was finally disbanded, and the Greater Bengaluru Authority came into existence along with five corporations. The OBC survey was done separately, and things started rolling again.

Finally, the delimited ward lists for all five corporations were finalised, and the reservation draft was released. Friday was the last day for objections.

“If there are mistakes, we have time to rectify them. If something isn’t in accordance with the rules, we will fix it. We have submitted the draft to the Supreme Court. We have until February 20th for the final notification, and the Election Commission has until March 16th,” says bdul Wajid, former Opposition leader of the BBMP and current President of the Bengaluru North District Congress Committee.

“The voter list has also been released. Time has been given for objections, and door-to-door verification is happening. A fair election is 100% possible. Only those who feel the ground shifting are raising objections,” he says.

The uneven division of voters into various corporation limits will not adversely affect the governance or the voting process, he argues.

Even then, a major hurdle for the upcoming polls could be objections to the draft ward-wise reservation notification, say observers. Groups unhappy with the reservation are preparing to go to court soon after the final reservation list is published in February if it does not meet their requests for modifications, say sources.

Critics claim the draft violates High Court and Supreme Court guidelines, specifically noting a reduction of eight seats in



Voter helplines

Bengaluru Central
080-22975803

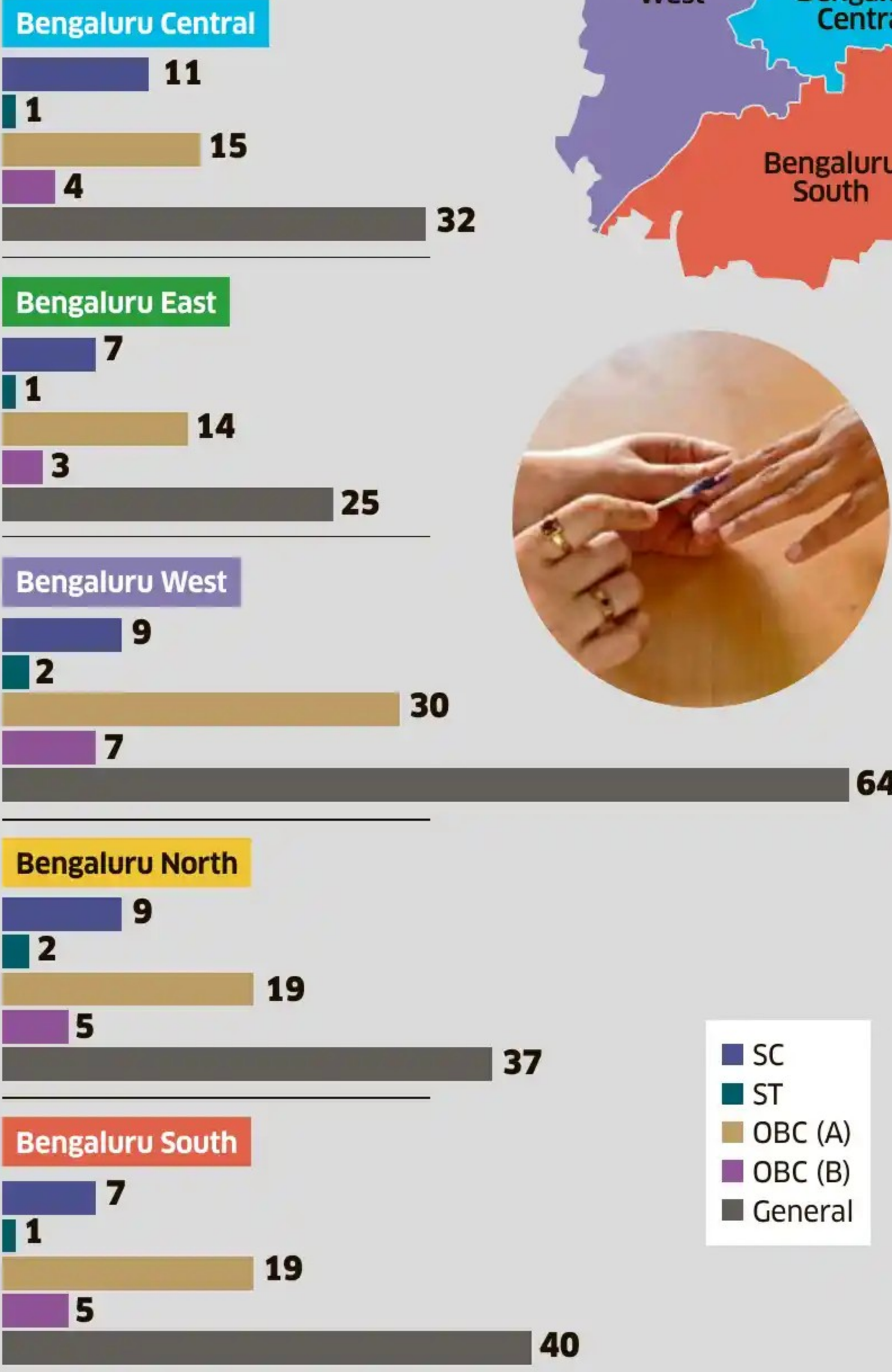
Bengaluru East
9480685706

Bengaluru West
9480685703

Bengaluru North
080-22975936

Bengaluru South
9480685704

Reservation roster for wards



CHECK YOUR NAME ON VOTER LIST

- Using:
- EPIC Number
 - Name
 - Corporation, ward, polling station

<https://gba.karnataka.gov.in/electoral2026/>

Fixing voter issues

- **Form-4** For inclusion of name
- **Form-5** Objection to inclusion of name
- **Form-6** For correction of name
- **Form-7** For change of address
- **Form-8** For deletion of name

Voter population in five corporations

Corpns	Total voters	No of wards	Avg voters/ward
Central	14.25 lakh	63	22,630
North	19.54 lakh	72	27,140
South	17.44 lakh	72	24,225
East	10.41 lakh	50	20,835
West	27.27 lakh	112	24,340

can be hacked daily. WhatsApp is being hacked. People are losing crores of rupees after clicking on links. So, can't an EVM be hacked?" he asks.

He explains the deeper issue that led to the trust deficit. “The Central Election Commission has no patience; they don’t take complaints. No matter what proof we give, they aren’t ready to discuss it in detail,” he says, pointing to the instances in the past where there were complaints against the EVM system, the display mechanism going wrong and other issues.

“In that context, with a ballot paper, when we cast our vote—instead of a button, we apply a seal—you will at least be satisfied that your vote has definitely gone to the party you chose. There is a system where the ballots are taken out and counted. It might take more time and involve more logistics, but it brings a sense of genuineness,” he adds.

However, Rajagopalan says moving away from EVMs is a mistake. “In the current format of the voter list, you will see physical chaos at the booths for sure. In addition, the voting method is being changed to a ballot-based one,” he adds.

“There is a lot of discussion and debate about the veracity of the information that EVMs, as digital tools, have produced. But there is no particular complaint that has reached a logical conclusion, leading to the questioning of EVMs as a whole. We have been reasonably and fairly successful in running the largest democracy with a reasonable degree of accuracy. Throwing the baby out with the bathwater is not a solution, because the world is headed in a digital direction. Comparing us to America or Germany isn’t fair; those aren’t apples-to-apples comparisons,” Rajagopalan explains.

Bengaluru voted with ballot papers more than 20 years ago. What is the issue with ballot papers? Rajagopalan recalls the days of ballot voting. “There were complaints of booth capturing, ballot bundles going missing, and every other way of malpractice, which is why EVMs came into the picture. Now we are going back, and the same problems can recur,” he says.

Wajid says that whether the political parties are happy or not, the voters will be happy. “The State Election Commission has the power to choose the voting method, and they are doing so. A voter’s right should not be diverted elsewhere,” he adds.

He argues that even having VVPAT is not enough to build trust. “The VVPAT was introduced only because these questions of trust arose. You press the button, and it shows on the VVPAT—no doubt about it. But the software is complex. Not everyone is an intellectual who looks at the VVPAT. Many senior citizens and uneducated people just press the button and leave; they don’t even check if the VVPAT is working,” he adds.

“Another issue is that they count VVPAT slips only in very close fights or on a random basis. This is still not a full proof of genuineness. If you are going to count VVPAT slips at all, you might as well just use ballot papers. The result might be delayed, but a fair election will be possible,” he argues.

Feedback:
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

METRO

‘Civic budget deeply flawed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru NavaNirman Party (BNP) has termed the preparation of annual budgets by the city’s five municipal corporations as “deeply flawed” and lacking democratic legitimacy, saying a city budget cannot be drawn up behind closed doors without public representation.

With no elected corporators, functional ward committees or area sabhas, a budget prepared without local representation is neither participatory nor accountable, said party founder and general secretary Srikanth Narasimhan.

In the absence of elected bodies, he said, the minimum requirement should have been the involvement of nodal officers, ward-level officials, ward committees and area sabha representatives.

“Unfortunately, even this basic institutional engagement is missing,” he said.

Doctors blame late detection, inherited disorders, high treatment costs

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

One-third of bone marrow transplants in Bengaluru were performed on children, highlighting gaps in screening, genetic counselling and treatment affordability.

Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology opened its bone marrow transplant wing in 2022 and has conducted 133 transplants, with 44 paediatric patients.

Dr Vasundhara Kailasnath, Associate Professor, Bone Marrow Transplant at the hospital, told *DF*: “As many as 44 cases



among children are significant. Cancer and other genetic issues are now leading reasons for paediatric transplants.”

Private hospitals report that 30-33% of transplants are performed on children with thalassaemia, relapsed leukaemia and aplastic anaemia.

Dr Rasmi Palassery, Consultant Medical Oncologist and BMT Physician, said: “There has been a significant increase in cases since 2021. We did about 10 transplants

a year earlier; now we do over 15. Paediatric transplants have crossed 40% in recent years.”

On the current system of screening, genetic counselling and donor registry, Dr Rasmi said: “There is progress in preventing inherited disorders that require bone marrow transplant, but significant gaps remain. Mandatory carrier screening and prenatal diagnosis are important.”

Genetic counselling helps people and families at risk of

genetic disorders understand their condition.

Dr Prerana Nesargi, Consultant Paediatric Oncologist, Haematologist and BMT Physician, said: “Genetic counselling is accessible only to a section of society. In future, more genetic screening and counselling, along with prenatal screening, can help reduce transplants.”

Doctors note that bone marrow procedures remain expensive, forcing many people to forgo transplant. Even at state-run hospitals, patients require about Rs 6 lakh for the procedure.

Dr Raghuram CP, Senior Consultant, Paediatric, Haematology, Oncology and BMT, said: “We help with funding from foundations, crowdsourcing and CSR funds. Still, some patients cannot proceed due to cost or insurance reasons.”

Doctors also called for more public awareness on bone marrow donation.

BDA drops Jayanagar Shopping Complex revamp plan

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly a decade after announcing plans to rebuild the iconic Jayanagar Shopping Complex, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) says it cannot develop the second, third and fourth blocks and will hand over the project to the Bengaluru South City Corporation.

BDA said municipal authorities had not vacated the shops or handed over the complex to begin work. “Shopkeepers went to court. After proceedings, the corporation did not vacate the shops, insisting on vacating one block at a time. The area is too small to work block by block. We have given up the project. The government must decide,” a BDA official said.

The BDA has already terminated the redevelopment contract with the company. Bengaluru South City Cor-



The complex wears a new look after renovation. FILE

poration officials maintained they had handed over the complex and would review options if the MoU between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and BDA was dissolved.

“We are yet to receive any communication. If the MoU is dissolved, we will see what can be done,” said Ramesh KN, Commissioner, Bengaluru South City Corporation.

Amid the tussle between the BDA and the South City Corporation, vendors said their business is suffering.

“In 2019, authorities vacated 163 shopkeepers from blocks two, three and four, promising new shops after

renovation in two years. But agencies keep shifting the blame. Business is poor in block one, especially on the upper floors,” said Jayaram BK, a member of the Jayanagar Traders’ Association.

Illegal activities

Jayanagar MLA C K Ramamurthy alleged the vacant market is a hub for illegal activities. “There have been instances of bodies being dumped there,” he said.

He said he had written to the government eight times, demanding the project be completed. “But the government does not respond.”

Vendors and residents said lack of coordination has cost the government lakhs in revenue. The government should have acted sooner, they said.

“We are ready to pay higher rent if the market is renovated and business resumes as before. Isn’t it wrong for officials to cause such loss to the government?” Jayaram said.

WHACKY VERSE

*Do land Trump
D Trump has taken the stand
That he must rule Greenland.
Out there in Denmark
The resistance is stark—
For now, his dream is canned.*

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

on Saturday

**Surya, Kishan
knocks give
India 2-0 lead
against Kiwis**

P16

**A trans
singer's
voice
transition**

Hindustani vocalist, Rumi Harish, was born a woman but always knew he wanted to be a man. While considering gender affirmation surgery, he was worried about the impact it would have on his voice. He talks about regaining his voice after the surgery, and navigating prejudice in classical music.

Full story, Page 13

The SATURDAY STORY

Bike taxis to return as HC lifts ban

Court says motorcycles can be registered as transport vehicles

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bike taxis are set to make a comeback as the Karnataka High Court on Friday lifted the blanket ban on their services in the state.

Holding that the ban is not compliant with Article 19(6) of the Constitution of India and contrary to the provisions of the Motor Vehicle (MV) Act, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi made the ruling while allowing a batch of appeals filed by Uber India Systems Pvt Ltd, Ropen Transportation Services Pvt Ltd, ANI Technology Pvt Ltd, Bike Taxi Owners' Welfare Association and certain individual bike taxi owners.

The court said there is no statutory rule that prohibits the registration of motorcycles as transport vehicles or issuance of contract carriage permits for motorcycles.

THE RULING

- Bike owners are at liberty to register their vehicles as transport vehicles
- Authorities shall consider aggregators' pending applications and pass appropriate orders
- Court rejects contention that a motorcycle cannot be used as a 'contract carriage'

HC says that a motorcycle used for hire falls within the meaning of a motor cab

"In our view, a blanket prohibition on issuing contract carriage permits to motorcycles cannot be considered as a reasonable restriction within the meaning of Article 19(6) of the Constitution of India for several reasons," the bench said.

With this finding, the court said motorcycle owners are at liberty to register their vehicles as transport vehicles (yellow board), while directing the state government to consider such applications and grant permits.

The court also said the authorities are not precluded from examining relevant aspects to register vehicles and issue permits.

With regard to aggregators, the bench said the authorities shall consider their pending applications and pass appropriate orders. "The aggregators are also at liberty to file fresh applications for licences. When such applications are filed, they will be considered in accordance with law and the observations of this court in this decision," the bench said.

The court said that a motorcycle used for hire or reward falls within the meaning of a motor cab as defined under Section 2(25) of the MV Act, if the same is used by a person holding a permit for carrying a passenger for hire or reward under a contract, whether express or implied.

"...we reject the contention that the motorcycle cannot be used as a 'contract carriage'. We also reject the contention that a motorcycle falls outside the definitions of a 'transport vehicle' as defined under Section 2(47) of the MV Act, or a motor cab as defined under Section 2 (25) of the MV Act," the bench said.

► **Bike taxi, Page 6**

Profiles in courage

DH Changemakers 2026 pose for a group photo in Bengaluru on Friday. Seated: Jury members Vanamala Viswanatha, L K Atheeq, chief guest Kris Gopalakrishnan, jury members Prof M S Sriram and Dr Vijayalakshmi Deshmane. Standing from left: Madhusudan K S, Baby G, Naveen Tejaswi, Kartik Sunagar, Arshiya Bose, Archana K R, Jabeena Khanum, Arundathi Mandya, Shakeel Ahmmad, Rohan R Suvarna, S R Ayan, Sadashiva Hydra, Standing front row: Anupama Benachinamaradi (left) and Bhuvaneshwari Kamble. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Full coverage, Page 4

R B Timmapur

BJP-JD(S) seek Timmapur's scalp, disrupt proceedings

BENGALURU, DHNS: The proceedings in the Legislative Assembly were disrupted on Friday after the BJP-JD(S) combine sought an immediate discussion on alleged corruption in the Excise department and urged Excise Minister RB Timmapur to resign.

The opposition legislators objected when Speaker Khader asked the CM's legal advisor and Virajpet MLA AS Ponnanna to move the motion of thanks to the governor's speech. The BJP sought a detailed discussion based on an adjournment motion they submitted.

Details on Page 6

All those behind Sabarimala gold heist will be jailed: Modi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that all those involved in the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold heist will be jailed once the BJP-led NDA comes to power in Kerala.

"The Left Front government could not protect the beliefs over the Ayyappa temple. Now, Lord Ayyappa's gold is also being stolen. Once the NDA comes to power in Kerala, a detailed probe will be conducted and all involved in the theft will be jailed. It is Modi's guarantee," he said at a public meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday.

Facing Page

Govt launches auto-conversion of land for renewable energy projects

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka has introduced a new system exempting renewable energy projects from obtaining prior permission to commence operations on agricultural land, a move that Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said will reduce corruption and simplify business operations.

Renewable energy projects — solar, wind, hybrid, energy storage, biomass and waste-to-energy — need not apply for conversion of agricultural land to allow non-agricultural use.

At present, any use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes needs a conversion order by the deputy commissioner.

"Conversion used to take six months. First, an agreement with the farmer and then conversion...it wasn't perfectly designed. Middlemen made merry. If the



government got Rs 10, the actual cost would be Rs 100. There was corruption and we don't know if that money went to an agent or officials. Ultimately, the government got a bad name," Gowda said.

"We don't want such maladministration. That's why this initiative has been launched. We believe this will lead to ease of doing business," Gowda said.

► **Renewable energy, Page 6**

COSTLY LEAK

PDS foodgrain worth Rs 114 cr illegally diverted

PAVAN KUMAR H HUBBALLI, DHNS

Foodgrains worth nearly Rs 114.19 crore meant for beneficiaries under the public distribution system (PDS) were stolen, diverted or illegally transported across the state in the last five years.

According to data from the Food and Civil Supplies department, nearly 2.38 lakh quintals of foodgrains, which were illegally transported, had been recovered between 2021-22 and December of 2025. The vigilance wing of the department has arrested 3,387 people in this regard. In 2025, the government had suspended at least three officials of the department for their involvement in

Stolen from poor man's plate			
Year	Seizures*	Arrests	Value
2021-22	77,808	783	₹30.46L
2022-23	74,698	874	₹29.7L
2023-24	30,943	580	₹20.0L
2024-25	13,202	505	₹10.72L
2025-26 (Dec 25)	41,698	645	₹23.22L

siphoning off foodgrains.

Sources in the department say the recovery is just a tip of the iceberg and the loss of foodgrains could be much higher, at least two-three times more than the reported cases. A senior office bearer of the State Food Commission says large scale diversion of PDS food-

grains is taking place in connivance with the department's officials. Karnataka has 1.08 crore ration card holders, and 4.01 crore beneficiaries. The Centre and state allocate nearly 43 lakh quintals of foodgrains — rice, jowar and ragi — annually.

The essentials are either stolen during transportation from the central warehouse to state-operated storehouses or fair price shops by truck drivers. Also, officials usually under-value or overvalue the total quantity of foodgrains being transported, resulting in loss to the government. The department, in the last five years, has seized 1,683 trucks that were illegally transporting PDS rice.

► **Foodgrain, Page 6**

Pears®

For a No Makeup Glow

Glow

Pears® Original Glycerin Bar
Pure & Gentle Glow
With Natural Oils

Available at

*Based on consumer study, 2017

Dreams deserve an address!

Home Loan

@7.10%* p.a.

Zero Processing Fee

Bank of Maharashtra

bankofmaharashtra.bank.in

Give a Missed Call: 8010 614 614

*T&C Apply



A truck seen dumping construction debris into the lake.

Illegal debris dumping threatens Bellandur Lake; raises alarm

Residents, activists seek CM's intervention to stop the encroachment

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Several truckloads of debris have been dumped inside the buffer zone of the Bellandur Lake near Koramangala, allegedly in violation of

orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Supreme Court. Residents initially believed the activity was linked to the construction of a buffer road, but grew alarmed when debris was dumped directly

into the waterbody. "We suspect this is the handiwork of developers attempting to encroach upon the lakebed," said Prashanth Methal, a practising advocate. After civic officials failed to respond to his complaint, he wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking immediate intervention to stop the encroachment. The site (Survey No 40), popularly known as Jakkasandra Lake, is part of the 950-acre Bellandur Lake,

which stretches from Yemalur (HAL) to Agara, residents said. "For the past few days, heavy vehicles have been openly dumping large quantities of mud, construction debris and waste directly into the lake area, suggesting the involvement of organised private interests," Methal stated in his complaint. He has submitted vehicle registration numbers and video footage as evidence and urged authorities to seize the vehicles and initiate legal action.

Kavitha Reddy, a resident of HSR Layout, said several vehicles were seen at the site and that she initially believed the activity was linked to drain or road work. "If this is encroachment, Agara Lake will have no outlet for water," she warned.

No BDA/GBA link? Engineers from the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) told *DH* that the dumping was not part of any

project undertaken by them. While the BDA is involved in Bellandur Lake's rejuvenation, the GBA has proposed a link road between Agara and Ejipura that passes through the lake buffer. Nitin Seshadri, a Koramangala resident, urged authorities to immediately register a police complaint, if the activity is found to be private encroachment, citing National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Supreme Court orders barring construction in the Bellandur lakebed.

Non-aggregator cabs to get T1 kerbside access at airport

KSTDC asks 500 cabs to take part in trial run next week

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Commercial vehicles barred from kerbside pickups at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) since December are likely to get some relief in the coming week. Yellow-board vehicles are now banking on the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) to regain access to the arrival pickup lanes at Terminal 1 (T1). Under the proposed system, commercial vehicles seeking kerbside pickups will have to book a slot on the KSTDC platform. Currently, commercial ve-

hicles not affiliated with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) must wait at designated parking zones — P3 and P4 — where they get 15 minutes of free parking. Thereafter, drivers pay Rs 100 for 30 minutes and Rs 50 for every additional hour. Aggregators associated with BIAL, including Ola, Uber, Quick Ride and airport taxis, have separate pickup zones. These rules apply at both T1 and T2. However, the parking zones for T1 are located farther from the terminal, drawing criticism from passengers over the long walk. "We discussed this with taxi unions, who told us that private customers continue to demand



Yellow-board vehicles look to KSTDC to regain access to the Terminal 1 arrival pickup lanes. DH FILE

kerbside pickups. Under the new system, a taxi with a confirmed booking can reserve a slot based on the customer's flight details and access the pickup lanes," a senior KSTDC official told *DH*, adding that software development is underway and trial runs will begin soon. The KSTDC has sought 500 cabs for the pilot starting next

week, said G Narayanaswamy, president of the Karnataka Chalakara Okkuta. "After an inspection by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh earlier this month, all authorities concerned met and arrived at this solution. "We've been told that access to lanes 2 and 3 will be permitted based on demand," Narayanaswamy said.

'Unfair pricing'

Fact-checker Mohammed Zubair highlighted pricing differences between airport cab aggregators on X. He showed a 31-km trip cost Rs 2,384 on Uber XL, Rs 1,187 on Namma Yatri. "Ola and Uber have dedicated zones, but Namma Yatri users walk to the parking lot," he wrote. Other passengers have noticed similar price differences since the new rules. An Uber XL to MG Road cost Rs 2,022 and Rapido Rs 1,707.

A BIAL spokesperson said the airport operator, in collaboration with KSTDC, plans to introduce a "structured and digitised framework" to allow commercial cabs outside its authorised network to access pickup lanes at T1.

6 roads under East corporation to get pay & park system

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The pay-and-park system is steadily expanding across Bengaluru roads. Even as the North and Central corporations finalise tenders to collect parking fees, the Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) has identified six roads under its jurisdiction for implementation. According to BECC sources, tenders will soon be floated to appoint an agency to collect parking fees on these roads, which were selected based on vehicle density and traffic volume. "The Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) conducted a traffic density study and analysed key parameters. Based on that report, these roads were identified," a senior BECC official said. While parking charges are yet to be officially notified, sources said the fee is likely to be capped at Rs 15 per hour for two-wheelers and Rs 30 per hour for four-wheelers. Officials said more roads could be brought under the



Vehicles parked under the pay-and-park system on MG Road. DH FILE PHOTO

SELECTED ROADS

- ITPL Main Road,
- Hoodi Main Road
- Channasandra Main Road
- Nagondahalli Main Road
- Borewell Road

system depending on the success of the initial rollout. "There are several suggestions, including from the traffic police. We will first implement it on these roads and then expand gradually,"

the official said. ITPL Main Road, Hoodi Main Road, Channasandra Main Road, Nagondahalli Main Road and Borewell Road are among the roads selected for the first phase. Sources in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said the Bengaluru South and West City Corporations are also in the process of identifying roads for pay-and-park. Recently, the Central City Corporation identified 23 CBD roads, while the North City Corporation chose nine roads for the system.



Bengaluru Traffic Police conducts DUI drive against school vehicle drivers on Friday. PHOTO: BTP

BTP cracks down on one-way, drunk-driving violations

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) booked 5,458 cases for driving in the opposite direction on one-way roads during a special drive on January 21 and 22. Such violations remain a major problem across the city, said Gopal M Byakod, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, South). "Once one person drives wrong, others follow. This herd mentality must change. When you see someone break the law, they must be reprimanded, not followed," he said. Of the 5,458 cases, 1,900 were in the south and 1,033 in the north zone. Similar drives will continue until January 31, said Jayaprakash, Deputy Com-

missioner of Police (Traffic, North). **School routes** On January 23, the BTP also conducted a campaign against school vehicle drivers found driving under the influence of alcohol. Of 5,110 school vehicle drivers checked, 26 were found under the influence. These drivers will be prosecuted under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, and their driving licence will be suspended. "Even though this may seem a small number, these drivers are responsible for transporting hundreds of children. "Each bus carries 20-30 children; it is a major risk," DCP Byakod said.

Officer files case over misuse of his name

BENGALURU, DHNS: M Ramaiah, Joint Secretary in the Chief Minister's Secretariat, has filed a police complaint with the Central Crime Branch (CCB), alleging that his name and designation were misused to cheat people by falsely promising member posts in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). Based on the complaint, police have booked Jagadeesh KC and others for cheating and impersonation. Ramaiah had initially submitted a complaint to the Bengaluru police commissioner on September 4. Following a preliminary inquiry and after

obtaining permission from the police chief, an FIR was registered on Thursday. The FIR stated that a senior journalist had approached Ramaiah's office on September 3, alleging that Jagadeesh had been using the identities of senior government officials, including Ramaiah, to gain the trust of victims. The accused allegedly approached Venkatesh Muttannanavar, an associate professor at a private college in Mysuru, and promised to make him a member in the KPSC. He collected large sums of money through cash and bank

transfers from several individuals between September 2023 and April 2025. He allegedly used the joint secretary's name and designation to lend credibility to his claims. Speaking to *DH*, Ramaiah said, "Jagadeesh had collected Rs 70 lakh from Professor Muttannanavar. I approached the police and sought action against the accused. I came to know that over Rs 3 crore had been collected from various people by promising KPSC member posts," he said. Police said further investigation is underway to identify other victims and track the money trail, the police added.

Bihar man held for selling pills

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cottonpet police arrested a 35-year-old man for allegedly selling illegal energy pills with false health claims and misleading the public. The accused, Ashik J, a native of Bihar, was caught by patrol police while selling 'Pyeevon Spas Plus' tablets to the public. Police seized two boxes from him. He sold the tablets without medical authorisation, claiming they provided instant relief from pain, boosted energy, improved mental strength, enhanced sleep and offered other benefits. Ashik bought the pills in Bihar and sold them at higher prices for profit, police said.

Caller posing as school staffer cheats student of Rs 7.65 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman from East Bengaluru lost Rs 7.65 lakh to an impersonator after believing she was paying school fees. The person claimed to be from the operations team of her online school. The 24-year-old victim from JB Nagar said she is a student at Masai School, an online institution, where she pays her course fees in EMIs. After paying EMIs for about 18 months, she received a call on November 25 from someone identifying himself as Gautam from the school's operations team. He later contacted her on WhatsApp.

"After talking to him, I transferred Rs 7,65,571 in different transactions between November 26 2025 and January 7," she stated in the FIR. When she did not receive an official confirmation, she emailed the founders of the school and only then discovered the fraud. "I was told no one from Masai School contacted me. I request the police to take strict action," she said. The East Cybercrime Police have registered a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Information Technology Act. Investigation is underway.

Police intervene to stop child marriage

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bommanahalli police swiftly intervened and stopped a child marriage, officials said. On January 22, a member of the public alerted the police to an attempted child marriage at Kodichikkanahalli,

Roopen Agrahara. Helpline 112 was alerted and Hoysala patrol reached the location, stopped the ceremony, and verified details. "There, the police identified a 17-year-old girl and an 18-year-old boy.

"The officers counselled the parents and family members about the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and explained the consequences of violating the law. The marriage was prevented," police said in a statement.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

- GENERAL**
Shiva Balayogi Maharaj Trust: 91st Anniversary of Shiva Balayogi Maharaj; JP Nagar 3rd Stage; from 8 am.
Akhila Bharatha Sikshana Ulisi Samiti: Campaign for pro-people education policy; Inauguration: Sukhdev Thorat, speakers: Jawahar Sarkar, Ram Punyani, Arun Kumar, Aditya Mukherjee, Niranjan Aradhya; Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Mattikere; 10 am.
Sapna Book House: Appagere Thimmaraju; Quiz programme: Na. Someshwara; Akshara Suggi-Mathina Huggi; C Chandrappa, Shubha, Belur Raghunandana; Presided by: Ra.No. Chandrashekhar; Gandhinagar; 11 am.
Book Release: Indian Medical Association (IMA) Karnataka Branch and Indian Medical Association Writers' Committee; IMA Auditorium, Chamarajpet; 11 am.
Dwija Art Gallery: Art exhibition titled 'Beyond Identity' by Lalitha Shankar; 12 noon to 6 pm.
National Institute of Vedic Sciences Trust: Closing ceremony of the 7th International Conference on 'Relevance of Vedic Sciences in the Modern World'; presence of Sujayani-dhithiertha Swamiji; Vijaya College, Jayanagar 4th Block; 4 pm.
Horticulture Department: Tejaswi Drama Festival; 'Yamal Qeshya' drama performance; Presentation: Prayog Ranga, KP Poornachandra Tejaswi Pratishthan; Lalbagh; 5 pm.
Universal Group of Institutions: Foundation Day; Guests: K Prakash Shetty, Yaduveer Wodeyar, Ravi D Channannavar, Upendra Shetty; Tavarekere; 5 pm.
Unboxing BLR: Declaration of the winning teams of 'Namma Bangalore Challenge' 26; Presence: M Maheshwar Rao, V Manjula; Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur; 6:30 pm.
Bangalore Habba: Lecture on 'Traditional Image of the Modern City';
- Indian Heritage Academy, Koramangala; 6:30 pm.
- CULTURAL**
Nupuramaithri Kala Kendra: Nupuradahan; Bharatanatyam: Swati Iyengar; Guests: Vidyalakshmi MS, Rupa Prakash; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 10:30 am.
Krishna Kala Kendra, Abhinna Arts Foundation, Creative Centre for Performing Arts: 'Shruti Smriti' on the occasion of the birth centenary of Satavalli Nanjundayya; Sri Jayarama Seva Mandal, Jayanagar 8th Block; 5 pm.
MES Kalavedi, Yaksheshwari Yakshagana: 'Bhasmasura Mohini' Yakshagana performance; MES Prof BR Subbarao Undergraduate College, Vidyanarayapura; 5:30 pm.
Drishhti National Dance Festival: Artists: Padma Subramaniam, Nirupama Rajendra, TD Rajendra, Anuradha Vikrant; Guests: R Ganesh, Srinivas Varakhedi, HN Suresh, P Dayanand Pai; Chaired by: TM Manjunath; Organised by Drishti Art Center; Chowdaiah Memorial hall, Vaikyalkaval; 6 pm.
- RELIGIOUS**
Validdevasena Sametha Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy Temple: Rajata Brahmarahtotsava; Subramanyapura; 12:15 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST	
Mist	
TEMPERATURES	
Maximum	27.5°C
Minimum	15.1°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	45%
Sunset (Jan 24)	6:16 pm
Sunrise (Jan 25)	6:46 am
Moonrise	10:00 am
Moonset	10:30 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5:30 pm) Source: IMD

HOT PICKS

Goa, Thailand top R-Day long weekend plans



Vendors and visitors at a night market in Goa. FILE PHOTO

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Goa, Pudukkottai and Thailand are the top choices for Bengalureans travelling during the January 24-26 long weekend. Within Karnataka, Kodagu, Sakleshpur and Mysuru are the most popular destinations, according to booking sites and tour companies. Pratim Akash, proprietor of a city travel company, said: "People are choosing resorts and luxury stays over destinations. Pudukkottai is popular for its beaches and proximity to Bengaluru.

Gujarat is fully booked because of the Rann." "Internationally, Thailand is always popular with more direct flights, and travellers are looking beyond Pattaya and Bangkok. Most visits are to Krabi and Phuket," he added. Tour companies noted that flights to Goa were available between Rs 6,000 and Rs 8,000 for the weekend, prompting strong bookings.

Spiritual destinations Rajath K, another proprietor, said: "Spiritual destinations are also in

demand. We have customers from Ayodhya and Puri in the north and east, and Tirupati and Udupi in the south." Demand for Singapore has declined as Vietnam gains popularity. MakeMyTrip data shows Vietnam rose from 10th in 2025 to the third-most booked destination this long weekend. Colombo is also gaining popularity as a new destination. "Social media has influenced travellers to choose Colombo and the Philippines, but more people have booked Colombo," said Rajath.

DH

DECCAN HERALD

Please contact for subscription/ service queries (late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)

9008366666

support@deccanherald.co.in

Edu dept tells schools to follow child safety steps during events

BENGALURU, DHNS: The school education and literacy department has issued a circular asking schools to take precautionary measures to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of children during the programmes organised at the schools.

In the circular, the department has directed the schools to constitute children's safety committees before conducting any programmes, including the national festivals.

It has asked the schools to ensure that no electrical wire is abandoned near the event venue; children should not be used while tying the flag to the flag post during the flag hoisting; electrical wire should not be near the flag post; the drivers should be instructed to drive carefully while taking kids to any events outside the school premises; the schools must ensure hygiene before distributing food items and water to children and the students' entry should be banned to the mid-day meal cooking kitchen.

'Job letters to kin of O2 tragedy victims in Feb'

CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will himself handover the job appointment orders to the kin of the people who lost their lives due to oxygen tragedy at the district hospital in Chamarajanagar, in the month of February, said Animal Husbandry and Chamarajanagar District In-charge Minister K Venkatesh.

The incident occurred five years ago during the Covid-19 pandemic. Venkatesh said appointment letters would be issued to 30 people.

Awareness crucial to prevent female foeticide: Dinesh

BENGALURU, DHNS

Social awareness is crucial to prevent female foeticide as the male-to-female ratio in Karnataka stands at 1000:947 and this will lead to an imbalance, leading to social problems, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said.

Speaking at the National Girl Child Day programme, Rao said, "Our department has undertaken significant work to curb female foeticide and has put in place strict laws, but social awareness is also needed to support the department's efforts."

"In many of the instances, it has been observed that even women themselves are involved in this unethical practice," he said.

Speaking about the upcoming scheme of the health department to provide vaccines to 14-year-old girls studying at government and government-aided schools, he said, "The department is working intensively to prevent cervical cancer. More than one lakh 14-year-old girls studying in government and government-aided schools in Kalyana Karnataka and surrounding regions will be administered the HPV vaccine."

This programme will also soon be expanded across the entire state as the main goal is to eliminate cervical cancer as a priority, Rao added.

From April to December of the 2025-26 financial year, a total of 52,02,647 girl children of government schools and government-aided schools have undergone health screenings, Rao said.

ಸಪ್ನಾ
1967 ರಿಂದ
ಭಾರತದ ಅತಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಭಂಡಾರ

Sapna Book House
India's Largest Book Mall

59
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

STATIONERY
GREAT DEALS

**ANNIVERSARY
MEGA
SALE**

ಕನ್ನಡ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳಿಗೆ
**10% TO
50% OFF**

TOYS
UP TO
20% OFF

ENGLISH BOOKS
UP TO
70% OFF

GIFTS
UP TO
50% OFF

24TH JANUARY - 8TH FEBRUARY 2026

Get this cutting to any of our stores and participate in our Lucky Draw

**WIN A GIFT VOUCHER
WORTH ₹59,000!***

A STORE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

Find us on Social Media:
Facebook: Sapna Book House
Instagram: sapna_book_house
Email: customercare@sapnaretail.com

SHOP FROM A WIDE RANGE OF:
BOOKS | STATIONERY
ART & CRAFT | GIFTS | TOYS & SPORTS
OFFICE SUPPLIES | TECH ACCESSORIES
SCHOOL PRODUCTS | FOOD & CHOCOLATES

SCAN TO KNOW US

Shop 24 x 7
www.SapnaOnline.com

BENGALURU: GANDHINAGAR, SADASHIVNAGAR, JAYANAGAR, INDIRANAGAR, KORAMANGALA,
RR NAGAR, HSR LAYOUT, ROYAL MEENAKSHI MALL, ELEMENTS MALL, THE GALLERIA MALL, M5 ECITY MALL
KARNATAKA: MYSURU, MANGALURU, HUBBALLI, DHARWAD, BELAGAVI, KALABURAGI, HASSAN, DAVANAGERE
TAMIL NADU: COIMBATORE (R.S. PURAM, PROZONE MALL), ERODE | NEW DELHI

AGENCIES, BRANDS, NGOS,
CORPORATES & INDIVIDUALS

Answer the planet's deadline call.
Submit your entries before it is too late.

IAA **OLIVE CROWN
AWARDS 2026**

INDIA
FOR CREATIVE EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATING SUSTAINABILITY
India Chapter, International Advertising Association

NO ENTRY FEE | DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: 2 FEB 2026 AT WWW.OCAWARDS.AWARDOR.COM

STRATEGIC PARTNER
awardor

THE GLOBAL
COMPASS
OF MARKETING

afaa
Asian Federation of
Advertising Associations

**Think Plots.
Think KNS.**

**BENGALURU'S BIGGEST
PLOTTED TOWNSHIP**

150+ ACRES
ONE ACRE CLUBHOUSE ZONE

Plots from 1200 to 3000 sq. ft.

15 min from Madavara Metro Stn.

**BMRDA
APPROVED**

ಕೆ.ಎನ್.ಎಸ್.

RERA No.: PRM/KA/RERA/1250/307/PR/060325/007551

RERA Registered

LAUNCHING

KNS®

Samootha

Nelamangala
Off Bengaluru - Tumkur Exp Highway

**PLOTS FROM
₹ 69 lakhs***

Launching on
Jan 31st & Feb 1st

www.knsgroup.in

CREDAI
BANGLORE

Scan for
Invite

Drivers & ride-hailing firms cheer HC ruling on bike taxis

Transport body opposes; cites concern over safety, hygiene

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka's decision to lift the bike taxi ban has evoked mixed reactions.

Ride-hailing firms and bike taxi drivers welcomed the verdict, while the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations reiterated its opposition, citing concerns over safety and hygiene.

Speaking to *DH*, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said he needed to study the judgement before commenting. A M Yogeesh, Commissioner for Transport and Road Safety, echoed the sentiment.

Adi Narayana M, president of the Bike Taxi Welfare Association and one of the appellants in the case, said it was "a day of joy and celebration",

saying their long struggle had finally paid off.

Rapido, the largest bike taxi aggregator and another appellant, termed the judgement "progressive".

"Recognising bike taxis as a legitimate mode of transport is not just a legal victory for us, but a milestone moment for urban mobility in Karnataka... As we move forward, we remain committed to complying with all applicable regulations and working closely with the government of Karnataka under its guidelines to strengthen the mobility ecosystem," a spokesperson said.

An Uber spokesperson said the decision would bring relief to lakhs of drivers who depend on bike taxis for their livelihood. "We look forward to engaging with the state government



The Bike Taxi Welfare Association claims to have around 10,000 members in Bengaluru and estimates nearly six lakh bike taxi drivers across Karnataka, including about three lakh in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

grant them contract carriage permits. However, citing a Supreme Court order mentioned in the high court judgement, he insisted that motorcycles with white number plates cannot operate as bike taxis until the government frames a scheme and issues licences.

He urged the government to stop the use of personal motorcycles as bike taxis immediately. He also noted that framing a bike taxi policy was

"purely" a legislative function.

However, Adi Narayana said bike taxis with white number plates could continue to operate until a formal policy was framed, as "there is nothing in the court that prohibits it".

The Bike Taxi Welfare Association claims to have around 10,000 members in Bengaluru and estimates nearly six lakh bike taxi drivers across Karnataka, including about three lakh in the city.

Karnataka had banned bike taxis on June 16, 2025, following a single-bench order, which has now been lifted by a division bench. After the division bench earlier directed the government not to harass individual bike taxi drivers, ride-hailing firms began facilitating services on their platforms.

Rapido operates bike taxis without charging drivers any commission, while Uber levies a nominal insurance fee. Ola charges a daily subscription fee. The firms are expected to return to full-fledged commission/subscription models in the coming days.

State did not produce any statement embodying its policy on bike taxis, says High Court

Failure to frame policy or subordinate legislation can't operate as prohibition, argue aggregators

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has said that the state government had not produced any statement embodying its policy on bike taxis. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi noted that, on the contrary, in 'Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme, 2021', which was subsequently withdrawn, the state had recognized the urgent need to put in place a system that would provide affordable first-and-last-mile connectivity.

The state government had contended that the decision to refuse registration of motorcycles and bike taxis is a policy decision. On the other hand, the aggregators and other appellants had argued that failure to frame a policy or a subordinate legislation cannot operate as a prohibition.

The bench referred to the April 2019 expert committee report which on one hand suggested continuing the bike rental mode, however, concluded recommending development of infrastructure

Aggregators' right to aggregate bike taxi services

The Karnataka High Court said that in terms of the union government guidelines, MVAG 2025, the state has framed Karnataka On-Demand Transport Technology Aggregator (KODTTA) Rules in exercise of powers under Section 96 of the MV Act. "Since a motorcy-

cle would fall within the definition of a motor cab under Section 2(25) and consequently within the definition of a 'taxi' under Section 2(7) of the KODTTA Rules, a licence issued under the said Rules would also cover a bike taxi, unless specified otherwise," the bench said.

ture for connectivity rather than permitting bike-taxis. The bench said the July 2021 notification on 'Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme, highlighted that there was a gap for the first mile and the last mile connectivity, which was a bottleneck to further use of public transport.

"The government had recognized the urgent need to put in place a system that would provide affordable first- and last-mile connectivity. It noted that bike taxis would promote urban mobility and would act as a first and last mile connectivity solution for the citizens," the bench said referring to the 2021 notification.

The bench further said, "More importantly, it would not be open to the Government of Karnataka to refer to the expert committee's report, issued in April 2019, as constituting the state government's policy. The policy of the state government was quite to the contrary, as it

Pvt bus-MUV collision: Four from Kalaburagi killed in Udupi

UDUPI, DHNS: Four people from Kalaburagi were killed and several others were injured in a collision between a multi-utility vehicle (MUV) and a private bus on the national highway near Kambala Cross in Miyar village, under the limits of Karkala Town Police Station, on

Friday.

According to the police, the private bus travelling from Dharmasthala towards Karkala collided with the MUV that was on its way from Kalaburagi to Dharmasthala via Udupi. The deceased are MUV driver Mannappa, Chethu, Rohit and

Mallamma.

The MUV was carrying a total of 13 passengers, including a child. Of them, three persons died on the spot. Mallamma who was critically injured was shifted to KMC Hospital, Manipal, for advanced treatment. However, she succumbed to

the injuries at the hospital. The child who sustained minor injuries was admitted to a hospital in Karkala. The remaining injured passengers are also undergoing treatment at the Karkala hospital.

According to preliminary information, the MUV was extensively damaged due to the impact of the collision. Passengers inside the MUV were

trapped as the vehicle was mangled. Locals rushed to the spot to help rescue the injured even before the emergency services arrived. The private bus too suffered damages but no fatal injuries were reported.

Police personnel from Karkala Town Police Station visited the spot. Traffic was briefly disrupted on the NH following the accident.



ರಾಜ್ಯ ವಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಸಂಘ ಅಸ್ತಿ-ಪಾಸ್ತಿ ಕಛೇರಿ
RAJYA VOKKALIGARA SANGHA ESTATE OFFICE

No.148, "Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Bhawan", Krishnarajendra Road, Visvesvarapuram, Bangalore-560 004
RVS/EO/1723/2025-2026 Date : 23.01.2026

TO-LET
(E-AUCTION ONLY)

Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha, Bangalore has INVITED E-Auction Public Notice for Renting the Entire DJCC building as One Unit Located in Hudson Circle, Bengaluru-02 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". The Auction No: RVS/2025-26/AUCTION1 Dated: 22-01-2026 and Last date is 16-02-2026. For more details visit KPP Portal website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- President RVS Sd/- Vice President RVS Sd/- General Secretary RVS Sd/- Joint Secretary RVS Sd/- Treasurer RVS Sd/- President Work committee Sd/- Estate Officer RVS

CENTRAL RAILWAY SOLAPUR DIVISION

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORK

E-Tender Notice (Re-Invitation)
Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-40
Date: 22.01.2026

DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms/ Contractors for the following works:- Sr. No:- 1, Name of work with its locality:- Provision/ shifting of telecom facility including FOIS network for development of various goods shed and changing room on Solapur division of Central Railway.

Tender No.:- SUR-N-T-2025-26-40
Cost of the work:- Rs. 1,22,45,668.66
Cost of the tender form:- NIL
Earnest money to be deposited:- Rs. 2,11,200.00
Completion period of the work:- 8 Months
Date & Time of Closing of tender on www.ireps.gov.in 16.02.2026 at 15.30 Hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/ amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with www.ireps.gov.in. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids). For further details please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager S&T Branch Solapur 10

"Download RailOne App for Tickets"

CENTRAL RAILWAY SOLAPUR DIVISION

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORK

E-Tender Notice (Re-Invitation)
Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-41
Date: 22.01.2026

DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms/ Contractors for the following works:- Sr. No:- 1, Name of work with its locality:- Signalling work in connection with BCM work with Geogrid and Geo-Textile method (TFR) & (TBR) in Solapur Division of Central Railway.

Tender No.:- SUR-N-T-2025-26-41
Approximate Cost of the work:- Rs. 82,68,713.84
Cost of the tender form:- NIL
Earnest money to be deposited:- Rs. 1,65,400
Completion period of the work:- 12 Months
Date & Time of Closing of tender:- 16/02/2026 at 15.30 Hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/ amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with www.ireps.gov.in. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids). For further details please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager S&T Branch Solapur 11

"Download RailOne App for Tickets"

Constitution: Seminar & walkathon at Jnanabharathi on Jan 30

BENGALURU, DHNS: *Prajavani* and *DH*, in collaboration with the social welfare department, will organise a seminar and walkathon at Jnanabharathi, Bangalore University, 7 am onwards on January 30 as part of the "Constitution is Light" campaign.

A seminar will be organised at Venkatagiri auditorium, followed by a 3-km walkathon on the campus. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of the Constitution.

Entry is free and registration is mandatory. Students of de-

523 bags of Anna Bhagya rice seized

BALLARI, DHNS: A team led by Ballari assistant commissioner seized 523 bags of Anna Bhagya rice which was being transported to Gujarat by a truck, late on Thursday night. A driver and five porters have been arrested in this regard. APMC police have registered a case.



gree colleges affiliated to Bangalore University can participate. Students must register in advance by scanning the QR code. All registered participants will receive T-shirts and caps. For more information, call 9901918805.

KARNATAKA REDDYJANA SANGHA

No.1, Mahayogi Vemana Road, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-34.

TENDER NOTICE

Quotations are invited from reputed companies: Supply and installation of HVAC chilled water system included indoor equipment's chiller and CPCP to KRJS Medical College & Research Center at Kasavanahalli. Approx Cost : 5,20,00,000

Sealed quotations are to be submitted to General Secretary within 7 days of this publication.

For more details, Visit our website www.reddyjanasangha.org or Contact: 080-2553 4194 or 90361 30173

Sd/- President Sd/- General Secretary

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem-636005 for the following work:

S.No.	Description	Description
1.	Tender Notice No. and date	GEM/2026/B/7102436 Dt. 21-01-2026
2.	Name of work	Outsourcing of General furnishing, Welding, Carpentry, Plumbing, Trimming, Painting and passenger amenity attention works in primary & secondary maintenance trains round the clock and Vinyl wrapping of coaches at Coimbatore & Erode C&W depot for a period of Three years. (Custom Bid for Services).
3.	Estimate value	Rs.8,53,25,149.20
4.	Tender Closing date	11.02.2026; 13:00:00
5.	Tender Opening date and time	11.02.2026; 13:30:00
6.	Web address	http://www.gem.gov.in

The Tender has been uploaded on the GeM portal <http://www.gem.gov.in> on 21.01.2026 As Custom Bid.

The firms registered in GeM Portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. Complete details of the above tenders are given on the GeM portal "www.gem.gov.in" For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal "www.gem.gov.in"

For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal "www.gem.gov.in"

Divisional Mechanical Engineer/ EnHM&FRT/SA, Southern Railway, Salem 636 005

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)

(An autonomous Scientific Society of Ministry of Electronics and IT, Govt. of India)

16/1-2, Pankha Road, Near Sagarnur Police Station, D Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

VACANCIES TO BE FILLED UP ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT BASIS

Advertisement Number : NIELIT/NDL/STQC/2026/1 Website : <https://www.nielit.gov.in>

On behalf of Standardisation Testing & Quality Certification Directorate (STQC) an attached office of MeitY, applications are invited from eligible and qualified persons for the post of Staff Car Driver (Ordinary Grade)

Post	Scale of Pay	No. of Vacancies
Staff Car Driver (Ordinary Grade)	Level-2 (Rs. 19900-63200)	04 (UR-3 EWS -1)

Candidates are requested to apply online at <https://recruit-delhi.nielit.gov.in> between 28.01.2026 (11:30 A.M) and 26.02.2026 (5:30 P.M). No other means/mode of application will be accepted except ONLINE mode. Before applying, candidates are advised to read the detailed advertisement carefully for determining their eligibility as per specified criteria for the post. Detailed advertisement is also available at nielit.gov.in, stqc.gov.in and meity.gov.in

CBC 06171/11/0010/2526

Director In-charge

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY

Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO. RWF/M/OT/RT Shop/2025-26/77 dttd.22.01.2026

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (Works)

Sl.No.1 Tender No. RWF/M/OT/RT Shop/2025-26/77 dttd.22.01.2026 Name of the work Hiring of 02 nos of 3 Ton Battery operated Forklifts with drivers plus maintenance cost Estimated Cost in Rs. 1213164.00 Earnest Money Deposit in Rs. 24,300.00 Date & Time of Closing of Tenders 13/02/2026 at 10.30 Hrs Completion Period 06 Months This tender notice can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in DY. CME/Utility

CENTRAL RAILWAY SOLAPUR DIVISION

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORK

E-Tender Notice (Re-Invitation)
Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-39
Date: 22.01.2026

DRM (S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms/ Contractors for the following works :- Sr. No:- 1, Name of work with its locality:- Protection/ shifting of S&T cable and provision of FOIS connectivity for development of Goods sheds along with circulating area and approach roads at various stations on Solapur division of Central Railway.

Tender No.:- SUR-N-T-2025-26-39
Cost of the work:- Rs. 60,74,704.12
Cost of the tender form:- NIL
Earnest money to be deposited:- Rs. 1,21,500.00
Completion period of the work:- 8 Months
Date & Time of Closing of tender on www.ireps.gov.in 16.02.2026 at 15.30 Hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/ postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with www.ireps.gov.in. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids). For further details please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager S&T Branch Solapur 09

"Download RailOne App for Tickets"

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No(s) 16218-16219 OF 2025

WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

ANISHA BHANDARY AND ANOTHER ...Petitioner(s) -VERSUS-
...Respondent(s)

M/S M. K. TRADING COMPANY LLC AND OTHERS ...Respondent(s)
To, 1. M/S M. K. TRADING COMPANY LLC S/o. REP BY C.B.PARDHANANI, R/AT AMARJYOTHI HOUSE BUILDING CO OPERATIVE SOCIETY LAYOUT, RING ROAD, DOMLUR, DISTRICT-BANGLORE, KARNATAKA-560071. PID: 298088/2025 FOR R[1] IN SLP(C) NO.16218-16219/2025 (SEC IV-A)

2. MR. C. B. PARDHANANI, R/AT AMARJYOTHI HOUSE BUILDING CO OPERATIVE SOCIETY LAYOUT, RING ROAD, DOMLUR, DISTRICT-BANGLORE, KARNATAKA-560071. PID: 298089/2025 FOR R[2] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 16218/2025, SLP(C) NO. 16219/2025SLP(C) NO.16218-16219/2025 (SEC IV-A)

3. MR. JYOTHINDRAN KOZHICODE PUTHENVEETIL, S/O J. ACHUTHA MENON, MANAGER, R/AT AMARJYOTHI HOUSE BUILDING CO OPERATIVE SOCIETY LAYOUT, RING ROAD, DOMLUR, DISTRICT-BANGLORE, KARNATAKA-560071. PID: 298090/2025 FOR R[3] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 16218/2025, SLP(C) NO. 16219/2025SLP(C) NO.16218-16219/2025 (SEC IV-A)

4. DR. MAHMUD ABDULLA S/O MR. ABDULLA MOHD. ADIL KAZIM, PARTNER R/AT AMARJYOTHI HOUSE BUILDING CO OPERATIVE SOCIETY LAYOUT, RING ROAD, DOMLUR, DISTRICT-BANGLORE, KARNATAKA 560071. PID: 298091/2025 FOR R[7] IN IN SLP(C) NO. 16218/2025, SLP(C) NO. 16219/2025SLP(C) NO. 16218-16219/2025 (SEC IV-A)

WHEREAS the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief along with application for CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING, APPLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 CPC FOR EFFECTING SERVICE THROUGH PUBLICATION above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr. BHARADWAJ S., Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 29th May, 2025, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:

1. Heard learned counsel for the petitioners.
2. Delay condoned.
3. Issue notice, returnable on 11.08.2025.
4. The adjudication of Regular First Appeal shall be subject to the final outcome of this special leave petition.

AND WHEREAS, the matter above-mentioned was listed before Hon'ble Court on 27th November, 2025, When the following order was passed:-

1. As per the office report, service on respondents no.1 to 3 and 7 is incomplete.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioners has filed application (I.A. No.301275/2025) for substituted service on the unserved respondents.
3. The application (I.A. No.301275/25) is allowed.
4. Accordingly, the petition is permitted to serve the unserved respondents through paper publication. Let the proof of publication be filed within four weeks.
5. Post the matters on 29.01.2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of on your absence.

Dated: 10th December, 2025
Copy to :- 1 Mr. Bharadwaj S. (adv.)
You are required to file the affidavit along with the proof of publication.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Important Notice
LEGAL AID

(1) Legal Services of an advocate is provided by the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Society to eligible litigants.

For further information, please contact the Secretary, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee or the Member Secretary, Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society, 107-108, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel.No. 011-23116353, 23116354 (Additional Building Complex) and 011-23381257 (Front Office)).

MEDIATION

(2) The facility of amicable settlement of disputes by trained mediators in cases pending in the Supreme Court is now available in the Supreme Court.

For further information, please contact the Coordinator, Supreme Court Mediation Centre, 109, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel.No. 011-23071432).

CENTRAL SILK BOARD
(Ministry of Textiles - Govt. of India)
BTM Layout, Madiwala, Bengaluru - 560 068, Karnataka
Phone: +91 80 26282699 Fax: +91 80 26681511 E-Mail: estab.csb@nic.in

Adv. No. CSB/ 02/2024 **RECRUITMENT NOTICE** **Date: 24.01.2026**

Please refer to Central Silk Board's Brief Advertisement No.CSB/02/2024 dated 24.08.2024 published earlier in CSB's website and in the Employment News on 31.08.2024 for recruitment of 28 posts of Scientist-B (Post Cocoon Sector) based of score secured in GATE-2025 examination.

The Online application link has opened from 19th January, 2026. Interested candidates should apply ONLINE ONLY. The detailed advertisement is available at the website of CSB [www.csb.gov.in] under the link "JOB Opportunities". The last date for receipt of online application is 18th February, 2026. Candidates should compulsorily read the detailed advertisement carefully before making an online application.

CBC: 41109/12/0015/2526 **Central Silk Board**

Tender Ref. No.: HIL/UDL/REL/2/2025-26, Dt. 21.01.2026

HIL (India) Limited
(Govt. of India Enterprise)
SCOPE Complex, Core-6, 2nd Floor, 7 Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, Website : www.hil.gov.in

Online tender invited through website <https://hil.abcpocure.com/EPROC>

Description	EMD Rs.
Tender for "for Decontamination, Dismantling, Packaging, Transportation and Relocation of the Pendimethalin Plant from Udyogamandal Unit to Rasayani Unit.", Event ID No. 58686, with due date of tender 02.02.2026 up to 14:00 Hrs. Pre Bid Meeting 27/01/2026, 15:00 hrs at Udyogamandal Unit, Kerala.	Rs. 5,00,000/-

Interested bidders may download the details from our website : www.hil.gov.in & CPP portal. Further Corrigendum, if any to the tender will be hosted in the above websites.

CBC 02111/11/0005/2526

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 immediately from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of on your absence.

Dated: 10th December, 2025
Copy to :- 1 Mr. Bharadwaj S. (adv.)
You are required to file the affidavit along with the proof of publication.

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Important Notice
LEGAL AID

(1) Legal Services of an advocate is provided by the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Society to eligible litigants.

For further information, please contact the Secretary, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee or the Member Secretary, Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society, 107-108, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel.No. 011-23116353, 23116354 (Additional Building Complex) and 011-23381257 (Front Office)).

MEDIATION

(2) The facility of amicable settlement of disputes by trained mediators in cases pending in the Supreme Court is now available in the Supreme Court.

For further information, please contact the Coordinator, Supreme Court Mediation Centre, 109, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel.No. 011-23071432).

NGT questions Centre over delay in guidelines to improve air quality

BENGALURU, DHNS

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has questioned the Centre's delay in issuing guidelines for combating air pollution with the Union Environment Ministry asked to provide details regarding implementation of the same.

The southern bench of the NGT was hearing three bunched cases, including suo motu cases, about high level air pollution in several cities.

On March 3, 2024, the tribunal had directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to collate state action plans and formulate guidelines to implement measures to improve air quality.

The CPCB had recently submitted that a draft was submitted "as early as February 2025" and the matter was pending for "formal approval by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)" as the clean air programme was a national policy.

Pollution has soared in many parts of the country over the last two months. Last week, the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air released a study showing that a whopping 1,787 cities in India were plagued by pollution levels higher than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

However, the government's programme targets just 130 cities.

Earlier this month, the CPCB said the ministry had approved the draft. The tribunal directed the ministry to file a report providing details of the dates on which the draft guidelines were submitted and when they were approved.

"If the MoEF&CC has already approved the guidelines, it shall be clarified whether the same have been circulated by the CPCB to all the state pollution control boards..." the tribunal said, posting the matter to next month.

HC bins rape, false marriage promise case by twice-married woman

BENGALURU, DHNS

The statute under BNS section 69 (employing deceitful means including a promise of marriage) punishes deceit, not disappointment; fraud, not failed affection, and exploitation, not the collapse of relationship, according to the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted this while quashing a rape case against a Bengaluru advocate and two of his close relatives, observing that the complaint "bears a strong imprint of manipulation and of an attempt to convert private discord into public prosecution".

The woman had alleged that the advocate developed a physical relationship with her after promising to marry her, but cheated her later. On December 9, 2024, the Byadarahalli police in Bengaluru registered an FIR under various provisions of BNS, mainly for rape, physical relationship employing deceitful means including a promise of marriage, without intention of fulfilment and by cheating.

The advocate submitted that he had met the complainant in 2023 in a case concerning the Negotiable Instruments Act and contended that there was no physical relationship. He called it a "concocted" story.

Pointing out that the woman was married twice, he argued that a person already married cannot project physical relationship on the promise of marriage. The court perused the documents placed on record.

The complainant had first married in 2014 and divorced on October 22, 2016.

Long after the annulment of this marriage, on August 21, 2020, she gave birth to a child, and the birth certificate depicted the name of her first husband as the father. The court pointed out another birth certificate about the child born on December 15, 2008, where another person was stated to be the father.

The court also perused another document placed on record in which the complainant had filed a case in 2023 before the chief judicial magistrate, Bengaluru Rural, describing herself as the wife of the person she had divorced in 2016.

"When all these facts, borne out from official records, are considered cumulatively, it becomes difficult to comprehend, far less accept, how the complainant could credibly assert that she consented to sexual relationship on a "promise of marriage", when she appears to have been in a subsisting marital relationship or at the very least, in a continuing domestic association, and is also mother of 2 children, one about 13 years old and the other about 4 years," Justice M Nagaprasanna said.

The court said that the complainant attempted to create a narrative of cheating by implicating the other members of the petitioner's family.

"The settled position of law is that breach of a promise to marry, howsoever morally questionable, is not per se cheating in the criminal sense, unless dishonest intention at the inception is established, which is conspicuously absent in the case at hand," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

Janardhana Reddy's 'model house' in Ballari set on fire

BALLARI, DHNS: Miscreants torched "model house" of MLA G Janardhana Reddy situated in Rukmanamma Chennareddy layout on the outskirts of Ballari city on Friday.

Reddy has constructed the 9,400 square ft house at a cost of about Rs 4 crore in G-Square Layout. No one was residing in the house and it was showcased as a model house for site buyers in the layout.

The Fire and Emergency Services personnel rushed to the spot immediately after getting information. By that time windows and some wooden pillars in the house were already consumed by fire.

G Somashekar Reddy, the brother of Gangavathi MLA, accused Bellary City MLA Nara Bharath Reddy of setting the



Flames erupt from the model house of MLA G Janardhana Reddy, on the outskirts of Ballari on Friday.

model house on fire. Additional Superintendent of Police Ravikumar and other police officials visited the spot. Sources said that the police had taken five persons into custody in connection the incident.

MoEF dilutes land acquisition rules for environment clearance

Experts committee had recommended relaxation

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Giving major relaxations to mining, highway and other major development works, the Centre has removed land acquisition as a prerequisite for providing environment clearance (EC) for works.

In October 2014, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) issued rules for development agencies, which sought EC for projects listed in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006. The rules made preliminary notification for land acquisition or "credible document" showing the status of land acquisition mandatory for obtaining EC from the state and central expert appraisal committees.

In an office memorandum dated December 18, 2025, the ministry listed four sets of projects, which could be cleared without the need for land acquisition details. Among other



In an office memorandum dated December 18, 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change listed four sets of projects, which could be cleared without the need for land acquisition details.

DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

things, the exempted projects include "mining of minerals, slurry pipelines (coal, lignite and other ones)" passing through national parks/sanctuaries/coral reefs, ecologically sensitive areas and highways.

The relaxation comes in the wake of recommendations by an expert appraisal committee for non-coal mining projects. "Based on the inputs received, it was observed that insisting for land acquisition documents at the time of appraisal for EC, may not be practical for certain other projects such as coal mining, oil and gas exploration and production, highways, etc," the ministry said.

Making land acquisition a prior requirement for EC had indirectly helped bring some transparency in the impact of the projects regardless of what user agencies and state actors said. At minimum, those who stood to lose the land would get to know about it before the issuing of EC.

Manohar Kumar CB, Green Lives Shivamogga Trust, noted that user agencies will come armed with EC for speedy land acquisition. "The dilution will reduce participation in the public hearing, conducted prior to EC. It's very clear that farmers will be the biggest losers. What's not obvious is the loss of rural commons like grazing lands. By the time any credible opposition to acquisition is made, the EC would have already been processed," he added.

Deepak C N, state president of Karnataka Rashtra Samithi, said the office memorandum is yet another blow by the Union government to the environment. "The government is helping mining and industry lobbies at the cost of farmers and downtrodden, who will be affected by these dilutions," he added.

Centre to procure 1 lakh MT of bengal gram from Karnataka

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Agriculture Minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan has said over one lakh MT of Bengal Gram (Chana)

from Karnataka will be procured under Price Support Scheme (PSS).

Chouhan, in his letter to

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, said that the Ministry of Agriculture has approved procure-

ment of 1,01,340 MT of Bengal gram (Chana) under the PSS in Karnataka, for the duration of 90 days.

Earlier, Joshi, MP from Dharwad, had urged union agriculture minister to immediately announce the pro-

urement of Bengal gram in the state to prevent farmers from resorting to distress sales.



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India



EMPOWERED YOUTH, IDENTITY OF VIKSIT BHARAT

A nationwide initiative to empower India's youth through government services

•

ROZGAR MELA

•

Across **45 locations** nationwide, distribution of appointment letters to **over 61,000** candidates selected to join government services

by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

 24 January 2026 | 11:00 AM

Through Video Conferencing



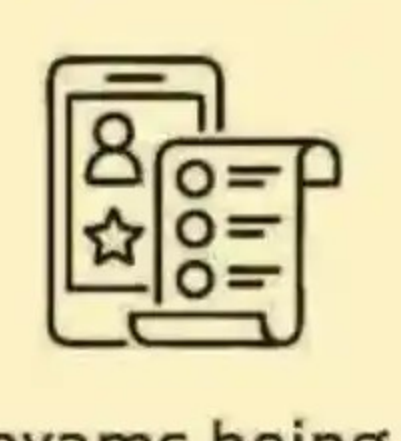
Generation of lakhs of employment opportunities by Central Government and partner State Governments and Union Territories



Special benefits for women, divyangjan and candidates from aspirational districts



Strengthening 'Citizen-First' approach through increasing participation of youth in nation-building



Recruitment exams being conducted in 13 regional languages to promote equal opportunities



Employment opportunities for talented youth through UPSC's 'Pratibha Setu' in public and private sector



Transparent and time-bound recruitment process and Stringent laws against paper leaks



Appointments through reputed agencies such as UPSC, SSC, RRB & IBPS



Over 1.47 crore Government employees being trained through more than 4200 high quality e-learning courses on IGT- Karmayogi Portal.



Watch the live telecast on DD News

For more information on training, visit: <https://portal.igotkarmayogi.gov.in> or scan the QR code.



CBC 19101/13/0029/2526

Kris Gopalakrishnan: ‘Changemakers initiative holds a mirror to the very best of our society’

DH archiving the power of good

BENGALURU, DHNS

Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan on Friday said India's future depends on nurturing problem-solvers with a strong sense of purpose.

He was speaking at ‘*DH* Changemakers 2026’, an initiative for discovering individuals driving social transformation at the grassroots level across Karnataka.

Gopalakrishnan said the initiative goes beyond reporting news and instead “holds a mirror to the very best of our society” by documenting stories of people who embody the power of good.

Congratulating the changemakers honoured this year, all



under the age of 45, he said their work carries a clear message for the country's youth: No one is too young to lead and no challenge too deeply entrenched to be addressed.

“At a time when we often wait for systems to change, these changemakers show that transformation begins with a single observation and a refusal to look away,” he said.

He added that their efforts



Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan speaks at the ‘DH Changemakers 2026’ award presentation ceremony on Friday. DH PHOTO

bridge deep social gaps and reflect a mindset of innovation that needs to be cultivated in classrooms and communities alike. Gopalakrishnan also drew

a link between social impact and personal well-being, citing research from the field of longevity science. Beyond genetics and diet, he

said, having a sense of purpose and strong social connections are among the most proven factors for a long and healthy life. “These changemakers have found both,” he noted.

Commending *DH* for sustaining the initiative over eight years, Gopalakrishnan said *DH*'s commitment to chronicling these journeys in print, video and through events is “a service to the nation” in an era dominated by fleeting headlines.

“You are not just reporting news, you are archiving the power of good,” he said.

He urged the awardees to continue scaling their work and thanked the audience for standing in solidarity with self-

less efforts that create lasting societal impact.

DH Changemakers 2026 was supported by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka; mobility partner Volkswagen; health partner Manipal Hospitals; banking partner Cosmos Cooperative Bank Ltd; and knowledge partner Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences.

The associate partners were The Chennai Silks - Shree Kumaran Jewellers; Suzuki MotorCycles India; KNS Infra; Bayer; NTPC; St Mary's PU College, Chikkamagaluru; MRN Group of companies; Rebalanz; Petronet and National Jute Board.



(From left) Jury members Dr Vijayalakshmi Deshmane, Vanamala Viswanatha, L K Atheeq and Prof M S Sriram share their thoughts at the DH Changemakers 2026 event.

‘Local solutions to global problems’: Jury members hail DH Changemakers

Selections made from a pool of 500 nominations

BENGALURU, DHNS

The *DH* Changemakers 2026 were chosen through a rigorous, multi-stage selection process marked by careful scrutiny, robust debate and collective wisdom.

Our eminent jury - L K Atheeq, former bureaucrat and chairperson of the Bengaluru Business Corridor; M S Sriram, professor of public policy at IIM Bangalore; Vanamala Viswanatha, academic and translator; and Padma Shri awardee Dr Vijayalakshmi Deshmane, former director of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology - brought diverse perspectives to the table.

Through detailed evaluations and deliberations, they assessed impact, sustainability and ethical leadership, before arriving at the changemakers from a pool of 500 nominations, whose work stood out for its depth, intent and transformative potential.

Jury member Vanamala commended the change-

makers for their combined efforts towards finding local solutions to global problems. “The efforts to find solutions for our own problems is what is impressive about all of them. The kind of passion that the changemakers brought to their work, putting the ‘we’ before the ‘I’. They might have begun with the ‘I’, but they didn’t stop there. They moved on to the community. This is a commonality among all of them,” she said.

The jury members spent approximately six months going through all the nominations. While Vijayalakshmi highlighted the abundance of good already prevalent in the society with examples from her life, Atheeq highlighted the need for community building to nurture such talent. “There is a lot of good among us and we need to create a system that encourages people to bring about change,” he said.

Sriram urged the changemakers to carry forward their good work. “When my friend Jayanthi Kaikini got an award, he went and told writer Yashwant Chittal about it. Chittal told him ‘you’ve not gotten the award, your story has gotten an award’. I would like to tell the changemakers the same thing. It’s your work that has won the work. So please continue the good work.”

“

VIEWES & VOICES

Dr SONALI JADHAV,
Dean & Principal, Ramaiah Institute of Nursing Education and Research

Each story of a Changemaker is a story of courage, story of faith in themselves and belief to bring change in the society. The stories were mesmerizing and we appreciate Deccan Herald for recognizing such people and bringing them to the forefront.

ANAND CHALKE,
Deputy Chief General Manager, Cosmos Bank

Today's programme is real salute to unknown soldiers of the society, who work for their passion and for the betterment society and people at large.

M A SALEEM
Karnataka DG&IGP

Deccan Herald is bringing these unheard heroes from different fields and towns across Karnataka to limelight. Most of the achievers are from small towns. It is remarkable and inspires more people in the upcoming generation to do good work.

SEEMANT KUMAR SINGH,
City Police Commissioner, Bengaluru

Changemakers are people who are doing extraordinary things in their field of work and this recognition will inspire them to work harder and better. This gesture from Deccan Herald will take them a long way.

M MAHESHWAR RAO,
Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority

It is a wonderful event and over the years Deccan Herald has continued to turn the spotlight on innovation and people who can make a difference. We think about problems and find solutions to real world issues, and that is something that should encourage more people to do good work.

JAGANATH
Head of Operations, KNS Infra

This is the eighth edition of Changemakers and they are recognizing more and more people and turning the spotlight on the good work these set of people are doing. I really appreciate them for such good work.



Yakshagana artistes perform at the DH Changemakers 2026 event. DH PHOTO

Initiative celebrates courage, inclusion and quiet leadership

BENGALURU, DHNS

The eighth edition of ‘*DH* Changemakers 2026’ was widely applauded for its consistent effort in recognising individuals who are driving meaningful change at the grassroots level across Karnataka.

The initiative once again turned the spotlight on the perseverance, courage, and quiet leadership, often overlooked in mainstream narratives, sparking conversations on inclusion, equity, and social responsibility.

The audience was a new mix of activists, artists, filmmakers, and members of civil society, reflecting the diversity of voices that a changemaker seeks to amplify.

Many attendees noted that the platform not only celebrates individual achievements but also highlights the larger social movements and community efforts behind them.

Transgender activist Akkai Padmashali, who attended the event, expressed her appreciation for the recognition accorded to Arundhati Mandya, a transgender woman, for her achievements and contributions.

“This is a huge recognition for people from marginalised



A section of audience at the DH Changemakers 2026 event.

communities. The initiative is recognising people without any prejudice. They are bringing out unheard voices that rarely get space in public discourse. It is a huge recognition for Arundhati and her work, and it inspires people like her to do better and continue their efforts with greater confidence,” she said.

Theatre artiste Ganesh Shenoy highlighted the credibility and responsibility involved in selecting changemakers.

“To recognise people who are genuinely doing good work on the ground is a challenging task. *DH* has always been impartial and has identified truly inspiring personalities who may not be visible in the limelight but are making a real difference,”

he said.

Several attendees also appreciated how the initiative brought together people from diverse backgrounds across the state, spanning social work, arts, activism, and cinema under a shared commitment to social change.

Artistic director of the Bengaluru International Film Festival, N Vidhyashankar, congratulated the organisers for sustaining the initiative over the years.

“We should congratulate *DH* for the Changemakers event. We are really proud to be a part of this platform that acknowledges people who work selflessly for society, often without expecting recognition,” he said.

Elaborating on the importance of such initiatives, Vid-

hyashankar noted that recognition plays a critical role in sustaining grassroots work.

“*DH* Changemakers has identified people whose voices are often drowned out by louder narratives of big projects and large institutions. But it is equally important to identify those who are changing the dynamics of society in their own way, within their communities. Recognition helps them go a very long way,” he added.

Offering a more critical perspective on the role of institutions, actor Kishore underscored the responsibility of the media in a democratic set-up.

“I am really happy that something like this is happening. The media is one of the four pillars of our democracy, and this award is showing what our priorities should be. In many ways, *DH* is doing what the government and judiciary have failed to do—giving visibility and dignity to those working tirelessly at the grassroots,” he said.

Reiterating the need to re-examine societal values, Kishore added, “This initiative helps us rethink our priorities. It shows us where our focus should be and how meaningful change can be achieved for the betterment of society.”

GBA elections to be webcast from polling booths

BENGALURU, DHNS

The elections to the five municipal bodies under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will be webcast from all the booths, announced the State Election Commission (SEC).

The decision to stream the voting process follows close on the heels of the SEC's decision to revert to paper ballots for the elections in Bengaluru. The web casting of the exercise will ensure the elections are a smooth and transparent affair, said State Election Commissioner G S Sangreshi. “Web casting is one of the many measures we are taking to ensure smooth conduct of the elections. There will be no scope for tampering in the polling booth,” he added.

Admitting that elections had been webcast earlier, Sangreshi pointed out that it had been restricted to sensitive and super-sensitive booths. “Each polling station will be under CCTV surveillance. Footage from each polling



booth will be streamed into the SEC office, where it will be constantly monitored,” he said.

Countering claims of paper ballot elections being more vulnerable to malpractices, Sangreshi said, “If you cite instances of paper ballot boxes going missing, I can point to incidents wherein EVM machines have been stolen. To check all such activities, we are web casting the elections from the polling booths.”

Sangreshi is confident of the SEC's abilities to conduct the elections to the five municipal bodies without a hitch. “We will seek support from the police and other departments,” he added.

Reversion to paper ballots will have no bearing on voter turnout, said Sangreshi. “Regardless of whether we use EVMs or paper ballots, it is the people's mindset that matters. As many as 2.97 crore people came out to vote in the elections to the 6,000 gram panchayats, which were conducted with paper ballots. The SEC will raise awareness among the people on the use of paper ballots,” he added.

Interestingly, the Karnataka Examinations Authority and the Karnataka Secondary Examination and Assessment Board had relied on web casting to prevent malpractices during second-PU and SSLC examinations respectively.

New draft rules for OCI quota in medical education

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has notified new draft rules specifying the quotas for Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) in medical education.

As per the draft, OCI born on or before March 4, 2021 or being a OCI cardholder before the said date, will not be entitled for any reservation that are applicable to a citizen of India.

Meanwhile, the OCI candidates born on or after March 5 or being a OCI cardholder after the said date are eligible for admission only against any Non-Resident Indian seat or any supernumerary seat.

Following the Supreme Court orders, the state government has drafted these rules and objections are suggestions can be sent within 15 days.

SSLC toppers to get cash prize instead of laptops

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government henceforth will reward the SSLC toppers by giving them cash prize instead of laptops.

As per the order issued, top three SSLC toppers from each district will receive the cash award into their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer. The cash prize is Rs 50,000 per student.

During 2024-25 academ-

ic year, 758 students are eligible for the prize through the State Scholarship Portal (SSP).

The money will be credited to the bank account linked to the students' Aadhaar number. Around Rs 325 lakh is earmarked for the scheme under the ‘Quality Assurance and Student Motivation Initiative’ incentive programme.

Pvt schools’ body urges Edu Dept to complete RTE formalities soon

BENGALURU, DHNS

In the wake of the Supreme Court ordering states and the Centre to ensure allotment of 25% seats at private schools to children under the Right To Education (RTE) quota, the Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools in Karnataka has urged the Department of School Education and Literacy to take steps to ensure compliance with the apex court's order.

In its petition submitted to the Commissioner of the Department of School Education and Literacy, the organisation has called on the department to ensure formalities, including issuance of notifications, activation of the online portal for admissions and the publication of the admission schedule, are completed ahead of time. Uncertainty and administrative ambiguity would pose significant hurdles to the RTE admission process, the organisation stated.



The organisation has called on the department to ensure formalities, including issuance of notifications, activation of the online portal for admissions and the publication of the admission schedule.

Although Karnataka can boast of being the first state to implement the RTE Act, the amendments made to Rule 4 of the Act exempted unaided schools that were within a one-kilometre radius of a gov-

ernment or aided school from enrolling students under the RTE quota.

The amendment, aimed at bolstering enrolment at state-run schools, resulted in a marked drop in the number of students being admitted to unaided schools under the RTE quota.

Meanwhile, the petition submitted by the Karnataka RTE Students and Parents' Association seeking directions to the government to ensure allotment of 25% seats to RTE students is pending before the Supreme Court. In 2018, the year before the government amended Rule 4 of the RTE Act, 1.5 lakh students were admitted to private schools under the RTE quota, said B N Yogananda, president of the association. “The state government, under pressure from private schools, introduced the amendment. This effectively crushed the dreams of lakhs of children from impoverished families,” he added.

Supported by

Mobility Partner

Health Partner

Banking Partner

Knowledge Partner

Associate Partners

Associate Partners

Outdoor Partner

TV Partner

saare jahaan se sasta

UP TO

70% OFF

**BIGGEST DISCOUNTS.
BIGGEST BRANDS**

STORES OPEN
10AM - 10PM

GIRIAS
THE CONSUMER DURABLE PEOPLE
Since 1971

BIG
Republic Day
Celebrations

3 DAYS ONLY
(24 - 26 Jan)

CASH BACK

Upto **20%**
ON CREDIT CARDS

IndusInd Bank, Citi, HDFC Bank, HSBC, ICICI Bank, Standard Chartered, Bank of Baroda, Kotak, RBL Bank, Union Bank, YES Bank, SBI Card, Federal Bank

HDFC BANK
We understand your world

10% OFF

INSTANT CASH BACK ON CC & DC EMI*
MIN TXN ₹17,000
MAX CAP ₹2,500
*T&C

FINANCE BONANZA

1 EMI FREE

INSTANT LOAN APPROVAL
Upto **₹4,00,000***

Upto **₹15,000*** CASH BACK*

MEGA EXCHANGE OFFER

UPGRADE

Upto **₹25,000**

OFF ON EXCHANGE OF OLD TELEVISION, HOME APPLIANCES, LAPTOP & MOBILES*

SAMSUNG 65 4K ULTRA HD SMART LED TV 65DU8300

10% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

32% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹66,690
MRP: ₹98,500

SONY 65 4K ULTRA HD SMART LED TV K-65S25

10% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

53% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹65,690
MRP: ₹1,39,990

LG 55 QNED AI TV 55QNED82T6A

20% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

52% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹55,390
MRP: ₹1,16,090

Haier 55 QLED GOOGLE TV

10% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

54% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹55,090
MRP: ₹1,20,990

Panasonic 43 4K UHD SMART LED TV

10% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

39% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹32,990
MRP: ₹53,990

VIVO V60E 5G 8+256

10% CASH BACK

SPECIAL PRICE ₹30,600*

EMI **₹2,550**

Redmi NOTE 15 5G 8+128

Upto ₹3000 CASH BACK

STARTS FROM ₹22,999*

EMI **₹1,917**

SAMSUNG S25/ S25Ultra

SPECIAL PRICE ₹74,999*
Onwards

EMI **₹6,250**

iPhone 17 17 256

10% CASH BACK

SPECIAL PRICE ₹81,500*

EMI **₹6,792**

realme 15 5G 8+128

10% CASH BACK

SPECIAL PRICE ₹25,300*

EMI **₹2,108**

oppo F31 5G 8+128

10% CASH BACK

SPECIAL PRICE ₹23,890*

EMI **₹1,991**

hp 155

10% CASH BACK

• 13TH GEN I3
• 12GB RAM, 512 GB SSD
• 15.6 FHD
• WIN 11 MSO 24

OFFER PRICE ₹42,990

EMI **₹3,583**

FREE: NAUTICA 25LTR TRAVEL BAG + COMPANY BAG PACK WORTH ₹6,999

DELL INS15

10% CASH BACK

• CORE i3
• 16GB RAM, 512 GB SSD
• 15.6" FHD
• WIN 11 MSO 24

OFFER PRICE ₹43,490

EMI **₹3,624**

FREE: NAUTICA 25LTR TRAVEL BAG + COMPANY BAG PACK WORTH ₹6,999

DELL 3530

10% CASH BACK

• 13TH GEN I5
• 16GB RAM
• 512GB SSD
• 15.6 FHD
• WIN 11 MSO 24

OFFER PRICE ₹53,990

EMI **₹4,499**

FREE: NAUTICA 25LTR TRAVEL BAG + COMPANY BAG PACK WORTH ₹6,999

Lenovo SLIM 3

10% CASH BACK

• 13TH GEN I7-13620H
• 16GB, 512GB SSD
• 15.3" WUXGA
• WIN 11 MSO 24

OFFER PRICE ₹67,990

EMI **₹5,666**

FREE: NAUTICA 25LTR TRAVEL BAG + COMPANY BAG PACK WORTH ₹6,999

Lenovo LOQ

10% CASH BACK

• RYZEN 5 7235HS
• 24GB, 512GB SSD
• RTX 3050 6GB
• 15.6 FHD
• WIN 11 MSO 24

OFFER PRICE ₹69,990

EMI **₹5,833**

FREE: NAUTICA 25LTR TRAVEL BAG + COMPANY BAG PACK WORTH ₹6,999

LG 506 LTRS Double Door Refrigerator, Smart Inverter Compressor GN-H702HLHM

10% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

37% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹63,349
MRP: ₹1,00,999

Whirlpool 231 LTRS FROST FREE REFRIGERATOR

10% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

32% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹25,175
MRP: ₹37,100

DAIKIN 1.8 TON 1 STAR SPLIT AC

10% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

35% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹36,890
MRP: ₹56,780

BOSCH 10 KG FULLY AUTOMATIC FRONT LOAD WASHING MACHINE

10% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

30% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹42,890
MRP: ₹61,590

Godrej 7 KG FRONT LOAD WASHING MACHINE

10% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

43% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹26,999
MRP: ₹48,000

LG 14 PLACE SETTIN FREESTANDING DISHWASHER DFB512FP

20% CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

26% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹40,790
MRP: ₹55,499

IFB 25 LITRES CONVECTION MICROWAVE

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

36% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹12,630
MRP: ₹19,890

GEYSER

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

60% OFF

BAJAJ, Haier, V Guard, Racold, Havells, Kenstar, Symphony

MIXER GRINDER

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

63% OFF

Preethi, Panasonic, V Guard, Prestige, Wipro, Bajaj, Bosch, Hafele, Havells, Butterfly, Tefal

CHIMNEY

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

50% OFF

KAFF, FABER HAFELE, Crompton, Prestige, Bosch

WATER PURIFIER

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

53% OFF

EUREKA FORBES, LG, BRITA, Livpure, HAVELLS, KENT

SONY HT-S40R REAL 5.1CH, 600W, DOLBY AUDIO, WIRELESS REAR SPEAKERS

Upto ₹2000 CASH BACK

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL OFFER

37% OFF

SPECIAL PRICE: ₹22,190
MRP: ₹34,990

LG SAMSUNG SONY Haier Panasonic IFB Godrej LLOYD Whirlpool BOSCH Electrolux PHILIPS hp acer DELL Lenovo ASUS vivo oppo 11 ONEPLUS mi iPhone JBL

BLUE STAR HXFELE Symphony HAVELLS USHR DAIKIN GENERAL Prestige VOLTAS VOLTAS-beko Butterfly Preethi VIVANAKASHMI ULTRA EUREKA FORBES PURA Livpure FABER KENSTAR Tefal Crompton MAHARAJA BAJAJ V GUARD ZEBRONICS KAFF OZONE

GIRIAS
THE CONSUMER DURABLE PEOPLE
Since 1971

ANDRAHALLI 95918 35070 | ANEKAL 9036289556 | ATTIBELE 99009 77747 | BAGEPALLI 9036289562 | BANASHANKARI 9035499199 | BANNERGHATTA ROAD 9035422500 | BHARTIYA MALL 9036289560 | BIDADI 8792565415 | BRIGADE ROAD 9035499066 | CHANNAPATNA 9035023186 | CHIKKABALLAPURA 9591561669 | CHIKKAJALA 95918 32080 | CHINTAMANI 90362 89552 | DODDABALLAPURA 77602 12888 | GANDHINAGAR 90354 99311 | GAURIBIDANUR 90354 99244 | GUBBI 9035027688 | HEBBAGODI 90350 50023 | HESARAGHATTA MAIN ROAD 90362 89551 | HIRIYUR 9035023185 | HOSKOTE 9036289545 | HOSUR 04344 243633 | HOSUR ROAD 90354 99022 | HRBR LAYOUT 90354 99177 | INDIRANAGAR 9035499255 | JALAHALLI CROSS 90082 20804 | JAYANAGAR 90354 99077 | K R PURAM 90199 29881 | KANAKAPURA ROAD 90082 20739 | KATHRIGUPPE 90354 99288 | KENGERI 99009 77712 | KGF 95917 98130 | KOLAR 90082 20791 | KORAMANGALA 90354 11200 | KUNIGAL 90362 89546 | MADANAYAKANAHALLI 90362 89550 | MAGADI ROAD 90362 89557 | MALAVALLI 8792553793 | MALLESHWARAM 90354 99233 | MALUR 9036984484 | MARATHALLI 90354 99011 | MATHIKERE 90352 22377 | MYSORE ROAD 90354 99188 | NAGARABHAVI 90354 99191 | NELAMANGALA 9606922798 | R T NAGAR 91080 65665 | RAJAJINAGAR 9035499144 | RAMANAGARA 9606922697 | SADASHVINAGAR 9035499088 | SAHAKARANAGAR 90199 29882 | SARJAPURA 95911 03536 | SIRA 9035023188 | TIPTUR 90362 89548 | TUMAKURU 90082 18009 | VIJAYANAGAR 96069 22795 | YELAHANKA 9036001315

STORE LOCATOR

*Terms & conditions apply. Finance at the sole discretion of the Finance company. Upto 20% Cashback & 1 EMI off on selected brands and models, Cash Back / vouchers will be credited to the customer bank account / BFL wallet after clearing 3 EMI. Upto ₹15000 Bajaj cash back / vouchers valid only in selected cities & valid only on Selected models & brands. EMI offer on above products based on 12,18,25 & fixed emi schemes. Exchange offer valid on MRP and Product as to be in good working condition.

180 MEGA STORES. INDIA'S LEADING CONSUMER DURABLE RETAILER.

SHOP ONLINE @ www.giriasindia.com

facebook
https://www.facebook.com/GIRIAS.INDIA

WE SUPPORT
ROUND TABLE INDIA
LADIES CIRCLE INDIA

Adigas Yatra unveils new logo on 32nd anniversary



(Left to right) Nagaraj Adiga, Panchamasali Jagadguru Sri Vachanananda Mahaswamiji, Basavaraj Horatti, K Radhakrishna Holla, Vishweshwar Bhat, Aditi Prabhudeva, Asha N Adiga and M Srinivasan display the just-unveiled logo of Adigas Yatra.

Adigas Yatra, one of Karnataka's most trusted and respected travel and tourism brands, celebrated its 32nd anniversary yesterday. A new logo was unveiled at the event held in Bengaluru. The anniversary is a milestone in the journey of the organisation, reflecting three decades of dedication to excellence in tourism services. Basavaraj Horatti, Chairperson, Karnataka Legislative Council, graced the event as chief guest. Panchamasali Jagadguru Sri Vachanananda Mahaswamiji, Harihar; Vishweshwar Bhat, Editor, Pravasi Prapancha; K Radhakrishna Holla, President, Karnataka State Tourism Organisation; M Srinivasan, Chairman, Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation; Aditi Prabhudeva, actor and classical dancer; and Asha N Adiga, Director, Adigas Yatra graced the event. Founded by Nagaraj Adiga, Adigas Yatra has grown over the past three decades into a prominent name in organised tourism, pilgrimage tours and

customised travel services. The 32nd anniversary and new logo launch reflect the organisation's forward-looking vision, modern outlook and continued commitment to innovation, trust, service and customer satisfaction. At the event, the dignitaries were felicitated, the new logo was unveiled and Nagaraj Adiga addressed the gathering highlighting Adigas Yatra's remarkable 32-year journey, notable achievements and roadmap for the future. "Our 32-year journey is a reflection of ethical business practices, customer trust and excellence in tourism services. The new logo marks the beginning of a fresh and vibrant chapter in Adigas Yatra's growth story", he stated. Along with its extensive travel services, Adigas Yatra continues to empower travellers with timely and essential information through its digital platforms.

Insights and valuable

information for travellers - www.adigasyatranews.com

- Daily weather updates and travel advisories
- Guidelines - do's and don'ts
- Information on the best months and dates to visit specific destinations
- Updates on travel based on weather conditions
- Practical tips and insights for pilgrims, tourists and holidaymakers

Adigas Yatra on YouTube

Adigas Yatra offers daily travel updates, weather forecasts and destination guidance. With a strong foundation of experience, trust and innovation, Adigas Yatra continues to redefine travel experiences for thousands of satisfied customers across Karnataka and beyond, ushering in a new era of modern, reliable and customer-centric travel services.

For tour packages, information: +91 94494 78944
Website: www.adigasyatra.com

Curated by **DH Brandspot**

STATE

Speaker reserves ruling on Governor address row

Congress, BJP trade charges in Assembly

BENGALURU, DHNS

Speaker UT Khader on Friday reserved his ruling on the alleged "disrespect" shown by Congress members to Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot during his joint address on Tuesday, following a heated debate between the ruling Congress and the BJP over alleged constitutional violations by legislators and the Governor.

BJP, in a letter to the Speaker, accused Congress legislators of obstructing and disrespecting the Governor and demanded the suspension of the members, including Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil. Patil countered by alleging that the Governor himself had violated Articles 176, 163 and 51A of the Constitution and demanded that he apologise to the people and the House.

Citing Article 176(1), Patil said the Governor was constitutionally bound to read the address prepared by the state Cabinet. "The Governor 'shall' address the House. He cannot come and go at will as per the Article 176(1). We do not draft speeches to please the Governor. Nowhere in the 122-paragraph address was there any personal allegation, yet he walked out after rejecting the speech," Patil said, adding that the government was to communicating its policies to the people and the Centre through the governor's address. Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka accused Congress members of obstructing Governor's path when he left the House and sought verification

of video footage, while rejecting MLC B K Hariprasad's charge that BJP members tore his kurta. Ashoka demanded parity with the six-month suspension earlier imposed on 18 BJP MLAs citing "misbehaviour." Former deputy chief minister C N Ashwath Narayan arguing that obstructing the Governor during a joint session amounted to a gross breach of House privilege and warranted immediate action. He cited Rule 27 that mandated a ruling by the Speaker in the very next sitting. Responding, Patil said all rules flowed from the Constitution, which bound the Governor as well. "No constitutional authority is above the

Constitution. As law minister, it is my duty to defend it," he said. On the national anthem row, Patil said the Governor violated Article 51A (respect to national anthem) by leaving immediately after saying "Jai Hind," despite the official bulletin stating that the anthem would follow the address. Countering this, BJP MLA S Suresh Kumar said the Governor had fulfilled Article 176 by reading parts of the speech and that what he chose to read fell within his discretion under Article 163(2). He also accused the government of attempting to use the Governor's address to criticise a central law, arguing that such matters should have been raised by the Chief Minister in the budget speech.

BJP-JD(S) protest disrupts Assembly proceedings

Oppn parties demand excise minister's resignation

BENGALURU, DHNS

Proceedings in the Legislative Assembly were disrupted on Friday after the Opposition BJP-JD(S) combine sought an immediate discussion on alleged corruption in the excise department and demanded the resignation of Excise Minister RB Timmapur. The Opposition legislators objected when Speaker U T

Khader asked the Chief Minister's Legal Advisor and Virajpet MLA A S Ponnanna to move the motion of thanks to the governor's address. They demanded a detailed discussion based on an adjournment motion they had submitted. An adjournment motion is a procedure to interrupt normal business to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, with the Speaker's consent. Insisting on an immediate discussion, Karkala BJP MLA V Sunil Kumar said: "Excise is such a big department. The kick sets in slowly. How can you suddenly convert it to Rule 69? You should allow a preliminary submission."

"What has occurred in the Excise Department is not Rs 1-2 crore corruption. It has happened on a large scale. It is being proven again and again that this government is corrupt," he claimed. The ruling Congress legislators retaliated when Kumar alleged that the money was being used to fund upcoming elections in Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu and other states. Flashing a pen drive, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka claimed to have evidence of corruption. Though Timmapur responded and challenged the BJP's allegations, his arguments were lost amid the din in the House.

When the Speaker asked Ponnanna to proceed with the motion and urged the Opposition to speak later, Opposition MLAs objected and stormed into the well of the House, raising slogans, such as 'Abakari Sachivaru Looti Looti' (The excise minister is looting) and 'Abakari Sachivarige Dhik-kara' (Down with the excise minister). As the protests continued, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings of the House for 15 minutes. When the session resumed, Ponnanna continued with the motion of thanks. At this point, Opposition MLAs again rushed to the well and resumed their protest. Amid the slogan eer-

ing, Ponnanna cited Dr B R Ambedkar's arguments during the Constituent Assembly debates and said that the governor, as the de facto head of the state, was bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Despite appeals by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, the protests continued. Unable to persuade the Opposition to withdraw, Speaker Khader adjourned the proceedings. The discussion is expected to resume on Tuesday (January 27), when Opposition parties are likely to table what they claim is evidence of corruption in the form of audio clips stored on a pen drive.

Govt launches auto-conversion of land for renewable energy projects

Renewable energy, from Page 1

Gowda pointed out that India has pledged to establish 500 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy by 2030 and decrease reliance on fossil fuels. "There's a gap of 200 GW. We've not been able to keep up the pledge, so we need faster growth." To establish 200 GW of renewable energy, an estimated 8 lakh acres of land will be required, Gowda said. "In Karnataka, over the next four years, about one lakh acres will be used for renewable energy," he said, adding that the state will have to produce 40-50 GW of renewable energy by 2030. The auto-conversion feature for renewable energy projects is "a leap of faith", Gowda said. "This is being done on an affidavit basis. We're hoping there won't be any misuse. We've also kept strong penal provisions. We're moving to a trust-based system," he said. Gowda hopes that Karnataka will get more investments with this land reform. "Karnataka has the best system for renewable energy investments as far as land is concerned," he said. The auto-conversion feature was piloted in the Chikballapur district before Gowda launched it statewide.

Oppn demands Cong MLCs' suspension; Council adjourned multiple times

BENGALURU, DHNS

Proceedings in the Legislative Council were marked by chaos on Friday, compelling Chairman Basavaraj Horatti to adjourn the House multiple times following disruptions. Right at the outset, BJP and JD(S) members demanded that Congress MLCs B K Hariprasad and S Ravi be suspended

ed from the Council for their conduct towards Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot. MLCs of the two opposition parties then raised slogans condemning the Congress, Hariprasad and Ravi. The Congress members retorted by shouting "Go Back, Governor". The row quickly escalated with the opposition MLCs accusing the Congress of hooliganism; Congress members

remarked on the POC SO charges filed against leaders of the BJP, besides condemning the RSS. On the one hand, Leader of Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy filed a request seeking the suspension of Hariprasad and Ravi, while Floor Leader N S Boseraju demanded a debate on the Governor's purported disrespect of the

National Anthem. Horatti rejected Boseraju's request, pointing out that there were no provisions that allowed for a discussion on the Governor's actions. However, he did refer to Narayanaswamy's request for the suspension of the Congress MLCs to the Ethics Committee. Congress MLC Puttanna objected to Horatti's ruling, and demanded a review of

the same. The Congress then submitted a fresh petition condemning the Chairman's decision. Horatti took exception to the use of the word 'oppose' in the Congress members' petition. "I will examine the pros and cons of the petition submitted by the ruling party and reserve my decision on it," said Horatti, before adjourning the House for the day.

SAFETY FIRST



Bomb detection and disposal squad conducts a security sweep ahead of the Republic Day parade at Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground in Bengaluru on Friday.

DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Structural problems slowing battery production scheme: Study

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Centre's Rs 18,100 crore product-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, introduced in October 2021 to boost Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage, has shown a substantial gap between intended and actual outcomes, a new study by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis and JMK Research and Analytics. The study noted that the ACC PLI scheme, launched to reduce dependency on imports and encourage electric vehicle adoption, sought to achieve a manufacturing capacity of 50 GWh. But at the end of October 2025, progress was limited to 1.4 GWh of the targeted capacity and another 10 GWh under development. "Among the first-round of beneficiaries, only Ola Elec-

tric has commissioned capacity, amounting to 1.4 GWh. In addition, Ola Electric and Reliance New Energy are collectively developing approximately 8.6 GWh of capacity, but this development has been delayed relative to the scheme's prescribed timelines," the study said. It has also found that the remaining 20 GWh of capacity, comprising 15 GWh allocated to Ola Electric and 5 GWh to Rajesh Exports, has seen little to no tangible progress. The study pointed to flaws in the scheme's design, aggressive timelines, high minimum bid (5 GWh) capacity and awarding of capacity to inexperienced players as reasons for the delay. In addition, structural problems and supply-chain risks due to heavy dependence on China for

manufacturing equipment, critical raw materials and minerals constrained efforts to build a self-reliant battery sector. "Going forward, improving the effectiveness of ACC PLI will require a holistic, multi-pronged strategy. This would include introducing robust cell testing and certification infrastructure; scaling up equipment manufacturing, and recycling; and developing skilled domestic talent, among other things," said the report's co-author Saif Jahangir, consultant, JMK Research and Analytics. Vibhuti Garg, IEEFA's South Asia Director, said it was equally important to assess how India can attract global battery players to establish manufacturing facilities in the country.

Shidlagatta incident: KPCC expels Rajeev Gowda

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has expelled Rajeev Gowda, a party leader from Shidlagatta who was accused of abusing CMC commissioner, from the party on the disciplinary ground. The decision was taken after the KPCC disciplinary committee examined complaints against Gowda in detail in the meeting held on Friday. Considering the "seriousness of the matter", the committee recommended his expulsion, KPCC disciplinary committee chairman Rahman Khan said. Earlier, the KPCC had issued a show-cause notice to Gowda, the Congress candidate from the Shidlagatta Assembly constituency in the 2023 Assembly elections, citing repeated acts of indiscipline and conduct detrimental to the party's interests. In the notice, dated January 15, 2026, KPCC General Secretary G C Chandrashekar accused him of making statements and engaging in activities that damaged the party's image despite prior warnings, and sought a written explanation within seven days. The action followed a political controversy after an audio clip allegedly surfaced of Gowda threatening Shidlagatta Municipal Commissioner Amrutha Gowda over the removal of an "unauthorised" banner. The incident triggered protests by civic body employees and drew sharp criticism from the BJP, which accused the Congress of promoting a "goonda state."

PDS food grain worth Rs 114 cr...

Food grain, from Page 1

The diverted food grains are usually transported to private rice mills, which polish the PDS rice, re-package it and sell them either in local market for higher price or as BJP MLC C T Ravi had recently claimed in Council, is exported to foreign countries. State Food Commission Chairman H Krishna says it is highly impossible to divert food grains without the involvement of officials at multiple levels. A total of 2,464 FIRs have been registered in this regard. However, the department did not provide information related to the total number of officials booked or suspended for their involvement in the crime. "There is a need to fix the system from bottom to top. There are multiple loopholes in the process of distribution

of PDS right from storing grains at central warehouses till it reaches the fair price shops. The miscreants are misusing these loopholes," he says. One of the deputy directors of the department said at times they get 26 kg rice bags that are 500 grams to a kilo less from warehouses. "Food grains are also stolen at fair price shops where dealers divert the food grains of beneficiaries by taking their Aadhaar details. Unfortunately, even many beneficiaries, who get higher rations, sell their food grains to hotels and individuals for higher prices," said the officer. Repeated attempts to reach out to Food & Civil Supplies Secretary Kanaga Valli M, Commissioner Ravi Kumar M R and Minister H Muniyappa failed to elicit any response.

Bike taxis to return as HC...

Bike taxi, from Page 1

The state government had contended that as a common understanding, motorcycles are not motor cabs. Since the government has not framed any rules for granting licences for motorcycles to be used as taxis, motorcycle owners cannot use them as bike taxis, it had submitted. The appeals were filed challenging the April 2,

2025, order of a single bench holding that unless the state government notifies relevant guidelines under Section 93 of the MV Act and Rules, the aggregators cannot offer bike taxi services. Though the single bench declared motorcycles to be transport vehicles, it held that no directions could be issued for registering the motorcycles as transport vehicles or for issuance of contract permits.

DH
DECCANHERALD

Obituaries & Remembrance
Advertisements

Log on to : <https://homages.deccanherald.com>
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live" - John 11:25

**Forever in our Hearts
YESUDAS DANIEL**
03-01-1948 - 22-01-2026

**Funeral service and Burial on
January- 24th, 2026 at
3:00 p.m at the Hosur Road
Christian Cemetery, Gate -1**

**Grieving Family members
Wife Mary, Daughter Benita
and Son Allan & Family.
Mob : 98860 01206**

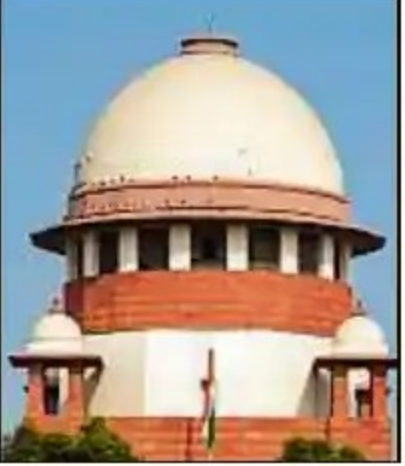
Temple lamp-lighting row: SC notice to TN over plea seeking ASI takeover

Court to examine Thiruparankundram petition demanding lighting atop Deepathoon

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday issued a notice to the Tamil Nadu government and others for their response on a plea filed by a Madurai-based religious rights body, the Hindu Dharma Parishad, for a direction to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to take control of the Thiruparankundram Subramaniam Swamy temple, caught in a Deepathoon (ancient stone pillar) lamp-lighting row.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pandholi decided to examine the plea, which has also sought a direction to permanently light a lamp atop the Deepathoon, the stone pillar, on



Thiruparankundram Hill. The court was informed that the Madras High Court had disposed of the matter on January 6. A counsel, however, pointed out that the parties were contemplating filing a special leave petition.

On January 6, the Madurai Bench of the Madras HC upheld an earlier order directing that the traditional Karthigai Deepam be lit on the hilltop, dismissing an appeal filed by the Tamil Nadu government and the temple administration.

The government said it would approach the Supreme Court against the verdict.

An HC division bench of Justices G Jayachandran and K K Ramakrishnan, while reaffirming the order passed by

a single-judge bench comprising Justice G R Swaminathan, determined that the pillar near the Sikkandar Dargah was a Deepathoon — an ancient stone pillar meant for lighting lamps.

Swaminathan had directed the temple authorities to permit the lighting of the ceremonial lamp on the hilltop pillar during the annual Karthigai festival, in a petition filed by a Hindu-outfit activist.

The petitioner claimed that lighting the lamp was a long-standing religious practice connected to the temple and the Karthigai Deepam celebrations, and that it had historical backing.

Opposing the writ petition, the state government contended through the temple administration that there was no conclusive proof to establish the existence of a lamp pillar on the hilltop.

It was also opposed to the lamp being lit at the suggested site near the dargah, fearing it could lead to law-and-order problems.

SC directs lawyer to tender apology in contempt case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Expressing displeasure over the declining standards of courtroom decorum, the Supreme Court on Friday directed a Jharkhand-based lawyer to tender an unconditional apology before the high court in suo motu contempt proceedings.

The advocate faced contempt proceedings after a viral courtroom exchange in which he allegedly told a judge, “Don’t cross the line” and “I will argue in my own way.”

Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for the lawyer Mahesh Tiwari, submitted before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi that Tiwari was “extremely repentant” and willing to render an unconditional apology.

The bench, however, criticised the conduct of the lawyer, noting that he was apparently defiant. “Why can’t he explain this before the judges? This is his obstinate character. Let him face them, let him explain. If he wants to show defiance there, let him do so, and then we will see. We know how to deal with this,” it observed.

‘100 GW of pumped-storage hydropower projects by 2035’

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) said in its latest report that India would reach 100 GW of pumped-storage hydropower projects by 2035-36.

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal released the CEA report, titled “Roadmap to 100 GW of Hydro Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) by 2035-36”, at a brainstorming camp that concluded on Friday, the Power Ministry said.

India’s energy storage requirement is pegged at 62 GW by 2029-30 and 161 GW by 2034-35, which makes the country’s goal to have 100 GW of pumped-storage hydroelectricity by 2035-36 imperative, said the report.

According to the Power Ministry, the Centre has prioritised the development of energy storage systems — particularly PSPs — to ensure the country’s energy security.

A PSP involves two reservoirs—one on top of a hill and another at the bottom. Excess

electricity is used to pump water uphill to the upper reservoir. When electricity demand spikes, the water is released to the lower reservoir through a turbine, generating power.

The CEA report assessed current development status, identified state-wise potential, and proposed a phased capacity addition plan.

It also suggested measures such as promoting off-stream closed-loop projects to support grid resilience and the country’s clean-energy transition.

Nine Naxalites surrender in Chhattisgarh

DHAMTARI (CHHATTISGARH), PTI: Nine Naxalites carrying a cumulative reward of Rs 47 lakh surrendered before police in Chhattisgarh’s Dhamtari district on Friday. The cadres, including seven women, belonged to the Nagri and Sitanadi area committees and Mainpur Local Guerrilla Squad under the Dhamtari-Gariaband-Nuapada division in Odisha committee.

Coffee growers seek Rs 1 cr for human-animal conflict victims

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Alarmed over the increase in human-wildlife conflicts, the Coffee Farmers Federation of India (CFFI) has demanded that governments give a compensation of Rs 1 crore to the families of those who lost their lives in them and double the price for the loss of cattle and crops in such incidents.

The CFFI, affiliated to the All India Kisan Sabha, has asked for the construction of dual protection measures,

such as Elephant Proof Trenches and wire mesh fencing at a height of four metres, to prevent intrusions by elephants, wild boar, and deer, as well as building elephant walls and bridges as required, through MGNREGA.

CFFI president HR Naveen Kumar and general secretary P Krishnaprasad have also demanded replenishing forests, by clearing artificial plantations of teak, eucalyptus, and mahogany, among others.

IN BRIEF

SC notice to Anil Ambani

► NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday issued fresh notices to industrialist Anil Ambani and the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) on a plea seeking a court-monitored probe into alleged massive banking and corporate fraud involving the firm and its group companies.

The top court clarified that it was granting the last opportunity to Ambani and ADAG to appear and file their responses in the case.

Humanoid robot at Vizag station

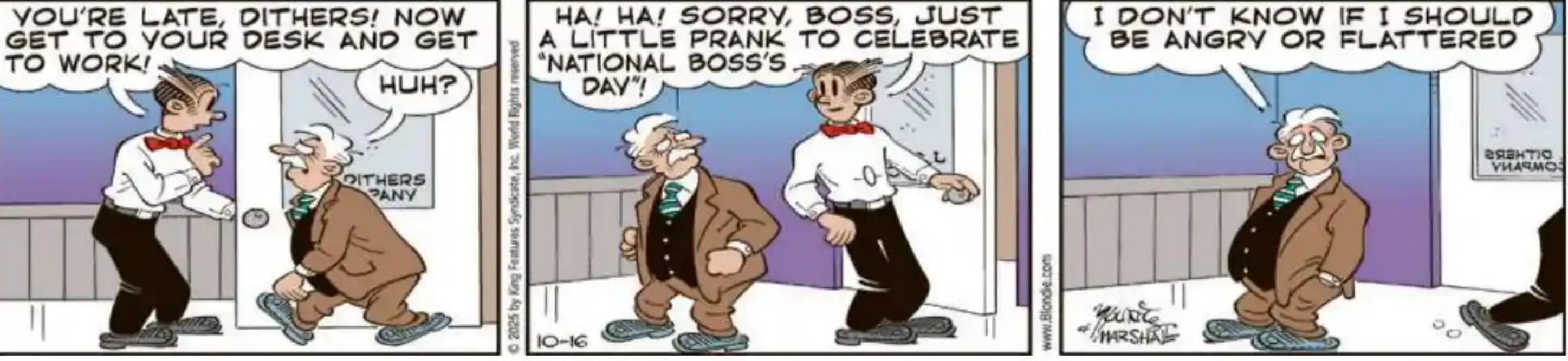
► VISAKHAPATNAM, PTI: In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Indian Railways, Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway (ECOR) Zone has introduced a humanoid robot ‘ASC Arjun’ at Visakhapatnam railway station to enhance passenger safety, security and service delivery.

It has been deployed under the aegis of the Railway Protection Force as part of its modernisation and digital transformation drive, aimed at strengthening security operations.

MISCELLANY

COMICS

Blondie



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NRTFO

DWHTI

SGTEID

NYAUSE

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLEND BASIS POLLEN THOUGH
Answer: The sign language teacher's assistants were —
HELPING HANDS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

We can set up here again tomorrow.

Sounds good. I'll take our stuff home with me.

LEMONADE 25¢

THEY SOLD LEMONADE ALL THROUGHOUT THE DAY UNTIL DECIDING TO ---

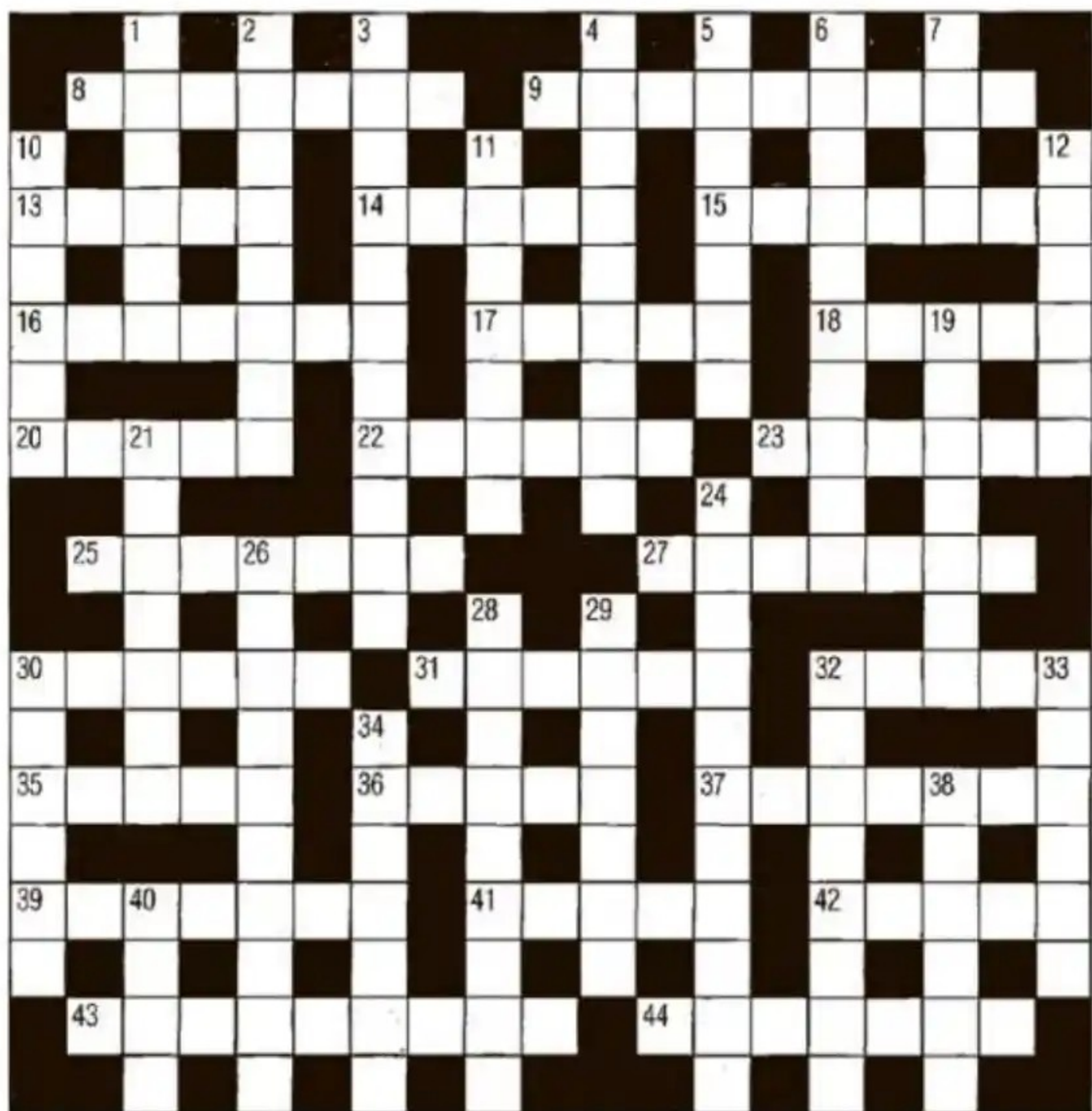
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:

(Answers tomorrow)

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4024



ACROSS

8 Nightwear (7)
9 Tact (9)
13 Hair dye (5)
14 Extremely angry (5)
15 Make-believe (7)
16 Schoolbag (7)
17 Courageous (5)
18 Poetry (5)
20 Fruit (5)
22 Croatian capital (6)
23 Find (6)
25 Shiver (7)
27 Hairly (7)
30 Walk wearily (6)
31 Mean (6)
32 Inspection of accounts (5)
35 Chasm (5)
36 Parasitic insect (5)
37 Word-guessing game (7)
39 Rather old (7)
41 Perfect (5)
42 Wireless (5)
43 Wild flower (9)
44 Easily bent (7)

DOWN

1 Young swan (6)
2 Long race (8)
3 Blue gemstone (5,6)
4 Freed (9)
5 Footwear item (7)
6 Impenetrable (10)
7 Unit of land (4)
10 Tool (6)
11 Vegetable (7)
12 Stick (6)
19 Cooked (7)
21 Planet (7)
24 Add unnecessary ornamentation (4,3,4)
26 JP (10)
28 Harmful (9)
29 Worshipped (7)
30 English river (6)
32 Aberrant (8)
33 Sinew (6)
34 Actors (7)
38 Intercere (6)
40 Percussion instrument (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS

8 Be rebuked for giving a pet to the young girl (5,2)
9 Going off then to pack a kind of vase (2,3,4)
13 A commotion that gets you up (5)
14 Hard on the heels of the flower people (5)
15 In the women's group, one is quite charming (7)
16 Continue, on getting power, to resist change (7)
17 Questions the daily (5)
18 Finish the asparagus off, darling (5)
20 That game is peculiar, good gracious! (5)
22 Offer to pull out (6)
23 Stays away from, because there's a chasm in (6)
25 Mad that father and I can't travel together (7)
27 Gossip, does listen to, yes (7)
30 Goes for the chaps (6)
31 Shopkeeper who's behaving as though he were a doctor? (6)
32 For about an hour, were formulating the question (5)
35 Give battle now, besieging (5)
36 Happen again and again, when you set the dog on (5)
37 Except for a round at the local (7)
39 Talked turkey! (7)
41 In a ship, it keeps the interior from getting dirty (5)
42 Frightening a fly (5)
43 Entering into an agreement that's potentially good (9)
44 Can a bar provide them for very little money? (7)

DOWN

1 It's even more lacklustre: that's what's wrong (6)
2 Mark the urban area where there's shortage (8)
3 Drink you having during flight when it's cold? (3,2,3,3)
4 Well, then I got confused and embarrassed (2,3,4)
5 They reveal themselves to be thoroughly reprehensible lots! (7)
6 Keeps a close eye on, though there's no longer any resistance (6,4)
7 So you take leave at the end of September (4)
10 Having the salesman walk up to is smart (6)
11 Argument coming back I'd got terribly upset by (7)
12 What the male star breaks? (6)
19 The face is both stern and very good (7)
21 With drink taken, unfortunately drive back (7)
24 What you dived into the grocer's for? (5,6)
26 Evidence that the strip club is on fire? (5,5)
28 Sound indication that there's pork for dinner? (9)
29 With water, there's call to be economical (7)
30 A minor attack (6)
32 Want the scruffy pair to go in for a make-up (3,5)
33 Draw into conversation, as you promise (6)
34 Prim and a little proper with the rather discourteous (7)
38 They're foolish to do it, anyhow, when one's around (6)
40 Say something angrily when you scratch yourself on (4)

SU-DO-KU-6812

			3						
	7		1	8	5				
	1					9	8		
7				9		4			
	9	4	7	5	8	1			
	8		1				7		
6	4					5			
		2	4	8		3			
				1					

SOLUTION TO 6811

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE

©2025 Mattel. SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

D ₂	D ₂	E ₁	S ₁	V ₁	A ₁	I ₁			
P ₃	Z ₀	P ₃	A ₁	R ₁	E ₁	S ₁			
D ₂	A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	M ₃	N ₁	R ₁			
A ₁	A ₁	G ₂	T ₁	E ₁	R ₁	T ₁			

PAR SCORE 230-240
by JUDD

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION									
M ₃	I ₁	D ₂	R ₁	I ₁	B ₃				
L ₁	A ₁	W ₃	S ₁	U ₁	I ₁				
B ₃	A ₁	R ₁	M ₃	E ₁	N ₁				
M ₃	I ₁	L ₁	E ₁	A ₁	G ₂				
PAR SCORE 145-155						JUDD'S TOTAL			
RACK 1 = 33						RACK 2 = 80			
RACK 3 = 30						RACK 4 = 80			
RACK 5 = 223						RACK 6 = 223			

HITORI-3266

5	6	1	8	3	2	6	1
1	2	2	5	3	3	4	6
3	4	8	3	6	7	1	5
2	3	6	1	3	5	3	8
3	2	3	7	4	1	1	5
7	2	4	1	1	3	5	1
8	5	7	4	8	6	2	3
1	3	3	6	7	4	8	1

SOLUTION TO 3265

8	5	2	4	3	1	7	
1		7		5	6		8
	1	5		2	8	7	
2	4	3	6	1	7		5
	7		1		4	6	
6	8	5		4	3	2	
4		8	2	7	5		3
3	2		7	8		4	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3266

		4	26		15	6		14	6
12				12			8	23	
4			4		12				
						7			
24	16				19			22	
17				8		7		15	
19	4	9			6			16	22
8								12	
23	6	16			12	9			16
11									

SOLUTION TO 3265

1	4	2	6	7	3	10	1	9	
14	9	5	2	2	4	1	3	7	5
	1	6	7	10	9	2	6	5	1
	1	7	9	1	1	1	1	1	8
1	1	8	2	3	4	6	9	7	3
16	7	9	2	1	5	3	1	2	
	2	1	4	8	9	6	1		
12	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14	7	9	1	8	3	16	4	3	
25	5	8	3	6	1	9	2	1	
	2	1	9	2	7	10	7	3	

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X- 3806

1				3	5				
	3	4							
	6				7				
				6		1			
8							4		
4		2			6				
				5					
	7	5	3			8		2	

SOLUTION TO 3805

4	2	9	3	1	5	8	6	7
6	1	8	7	2	9	4	3	5
3	5	7	8	4	6	9	1	2
2	3	1	5	7	4	6	8	9
9	4	5	6	8	3	7	2	1
7	8	6	1	9	2	5	4	3
8	7	2	9	6	1	3	5	4
1	6	3	4	5	7	2	9	8
5	9	4	2	3	8	1	7	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

In defence of the federal compact

The Sarkaria Commission, which submitted its report in 1988, was anchored in the philosophy of cooperative federalism. Nearly four decades later, however, there is a growing chorus of complaints that instead of consolidating this spirit, India is sliding towards a regime of coercive centralism. This concern was articulated forcefully by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the South Indian Socialist Conference recently. His warning about this “dangerous shift” goes beyond partisan rhetoric and raises serious constitutional questions about the balance of power. At the heart of Siddaramaiah’s critique is a convergence of concerns regarding the erosion of Centre-state consultation. A primary fear is “demographic punishment” through delimitation, which could diminish the political voice of the southern states despite their success in achieving population stabilisation. This is compounded by fiscal inequity; Karnataka receives barely 13 paise for every rupee it contributes in taxes, while the divisible pool is increasingly shrunk with the centre retaining cesses and surcharges. Siddaramaiah also argued that states are expected to deliver central schemes without adequate funds, flexibility, or prior consultation, violating both the federal and socialist spirit of the Constitution.

The ground-level impact of this lack of consultation is perhaps most visible in recent agricultural decisions. Unilateral central trade policies, such as permitting imports despite domestic surpluses, have repeatedly destabilised farm economies. Maize imports triggered procurement price crashes across producing states; duty-free pulse imports hurt growers during peak harvests; and cheap pepper imports have impacted farmers across the Western Ghats. Such decisions, taken without meaningful engagement with states, have left them scrambling to manage rural distress with limited fiscal tools.

The Sarkaria Commission, which anticipated these conflicts, made 247 recommendations, including setting up a permanent Inter-State Council headed by the Prime Minister, as a forum for dialogue and consultation. Although established in 1990, the Council has been steadily marginalised. Its last full meeting was held in July 2016, despite a mandate to meet at least three times a year. In the absence of this constitutional forum, disputes over policymaking and federal balance remain unresolved. Deepening these tensions is the confrontational role of governors in states with non-BJP governments, where Lok Bhavans are increasingly seen as sites of political obstruction rather than constitutional bridges. Cooperative federalism is not a slogan but a safety valve. It ensures that regional aspirations are negotiated within the constitutional framework rather than being over-ridden. Reviving institutions like the Inter-State Council and adopting a genuine ‘Team India’ approach, where the Centre facilitates rather than commands are essential to preserving the federal compact envisioned by the Constitution.

Unilateral central policies hinder regional aspirations, place cooperative federalism under strain

Ending child marriage begins with education

Bal vivah mukt abhiyan, a 100-day initiative launched by the Central government in December, is aimed at creating greater awareness about the regressive practice of child marriage. It was conceived in the wake of reports of the practice being prevalent in many parts of the country, even after decades of campaigns against it. Apart from the Prevention of Child Marriage Act of 2006, which has stringent provisions, India has other laws enacted for the safety and well-being of the girl child. State schemes such as *beti bachao, beti padhao* – envisioned to promote and ensure education of the girl child – have also been initiated, but the country is still far from its stated goal of ending child marriages by 2030.

Over the decades, the number of child marriages has consistently dropped. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), the incidence dropped from 47.4% in 2005-06 to 23.3% in 2019-21. This is, still, a very high incidence. According to UNICEF, India accounted for one-third of the 63 crore child marriages in the world in 2023. Variations in incidence within the country are striking. Kerala and Tamil Nadu have reported low rates, while West Bengal and Bihar – at over 40% – are among the states with the highest incidence. Intra-state variations in the numbers have also been prominent. Karnataka, which has a high incidence, has taken legislative measures to strengthen the Prevention of Child Marriage Act. Last year, child betrothals were sought to be made punishable; the quantum of punishment has also been enhanced.

Socio-economic conditions and the education of girls are important factors that influence decisions behind child marriages. Lack of education and poverty often prompt parents to consider marrying off their daughters at an early age. It is a practice entrenched through generations. Though boys also used to be married off before adulthood, child marriages now mostly involve girls. These marriages push girls into a life of dependence, robbing them of their agency. They also risk exposing the girls to health complications from early pregnancy. Strategies to end the practice should aim at keeping girls in schools and colleges for longer periods. This can enable them to have a bigger say in matrimonial decisions and choices. Existing laws need to be enforced with greater intent and alacrity. Not all cases are reported or lead to prosecution; the rate of conviction is low. Campaigns should adopt a multi-pronged strategy, incorporating awareness about the social costs and legal deterrence.

Laws and campaigns have had a positive impact, but real reform should start in the classrooms

COMMENT

FUTURE SHOCK

In a climate of unease, youth seek justice and jobs

Anxieties over the economy and technology are real, but the young are coping and hopeful of fairer societies

P JOHN J KENNEDY

A new global survey of young people has revealed a paradox about the world we are building: uncomfortable yet hopeful. According to the World Economic Forum’s *Youth Pulse 2026* report, more than half of young people worldwide say financial stress and anxiety dominate their lives. Nearly one in two believe that the growing gap between the rich and the poor is the single most important economic force shaping their future. These are not theoretical worries. They are everyday experiences seen in rising rents, uncertain jobs, mounting education loans, recurring climate shocks, and the relentless pressure to get ahead in an unequal world.

The survey, based on responses from nearly 4,600 young people from 489 locations worldwide, captures a generation that is both worried and remarkably clear-eyed. Inflation, instability, and inequality are not just economic trends to them; they are daily constraints on their choices. When as many as 57% say financial worries weigh heavily on their minds, it is not just about short-term difficulties. It reveals a deeper flaw in the system: the economy may be expanding, but everyday life feels insecure, and wealth is being generated without reaching most people. What stands out is that inequality, not unemployment alone, sits at the centre of youth anxiety. Young people are not merely asking for jobs; they are asking for fairness.

Over decades, global economic growth has lifted millions out of poverty, but it has also concentrated wealth in fewer hands. Studies by institutions like the World Bank and Oxfam have repeatedly shown that income and wealth inequality have widened in many countries since the 1990s. Young people today enter labour markets where wages lag behind housing costs, where permanent jobs are replaced by contracts, and where social mobility feels more like an exception than a rule. However, this gen-

eration is not paralysed by pessimism. In regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, entrepreneurship has emerged as a powerful force.

Where formal employment systems fail to absorb young people, innovation becomes a survival strategy. From modest digital ventures to neighbourhood businesses, young people are finding ways to create work when jobs are scarce. While this spirit is admirable, it cannot be used as a reason for governments to step back from their duty to ensure stable employment, keep markets fair, and invest in public services.



The priorities young people have identified are strikingly practical. Creating employment opportunities tops the list (57.2%), followed closely by equal access to affordable, quality education (46.1%). Affordable housing and financial independence (32.2%) come next. These are not radical demands. They are the basic pillars of a dignified life. That these still need to be demanded so forcefully tells us how far policy has drifted from everyday realities.

Interestingly, climate change has refused to fade into the background, even under economic pressure. More than half of respondents (56%) see it as the greatest threat to the world, and 41% see it as a direct threat to their own lives. Young people are growing up amid floods, heatwaves, water shortages, and food insecurity. For them, climate change is not a future scenario; it is a present condition. What worries many is that climate action is often framed as a trade-off against jobs and growth, when young people increasingly see it as

inseparable from economic justice.

Involved, but concerned

Politically, the survey pushes back against the idea that young people are apathetic. Nearly half of respondents see positive political changes, such as stronger civic participation and more inclusive policymaking. Notably, 36% say they are likely to run for political office. This is not a disengaged generation, but one that is tired of talk without power, protest without policy, and representation without tangible results.

Trust, however, remains local. Young people place more faith in community leaders than in distant national or global institutions, reflecting a desire for visible and accountable leadership. This also explains why 95% believe purpose-built youth communities are important, as they enable learning and collective problem-solving. That over 800 youth-led initiatives reached more than 2.2 million people in a single year shows that young people are already leading in practice, even without formal power.

Technology adds another layer of complexity. Two-thirds of respondents believe that artificial intelligence will reduce the number of entry-level jobs. This fear is not unfounded. Automation is already reshaping sectors like customer service, data processing, and even creative work. At the same time, nearly 60% of young people regularly use AI to build skills. This mix of unease and confidence captures the mood of the moment. Young people are learning to adjust faster than the systems around them, but they also know that personal adjustment has its limits. Without clear, future-ready policies on education, skill development, and job creation, new technologies risk widening existing gaps rather than closing them.

What the survey reveals is not a generation seeking pity, but one asking to be taken seriously. Young people are fully aware of the challenges before them. They may feel anxious, but they are also informed, involved, and willing to step up. They are not turning their backs on democracy, markets, or technology. They simply want these systems to serve more than a small, privileged minority. Leaders, therefore, must remember that inequality cannot be solved with speeches alone; it demands concrete action. It remains to be seen if they will rise to that expectation.

(The writer is a former professor and dean, Christ University, Bengaluru)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Before banks, there was courtyard

Wealthy families lived under constant insecurity and the threat of losing their chattel

SIDDHARTH NANDI

Ours was a joint family residing in our ancestral home in a remote village in Bengal. More than thirty members shared the same roof. Except for my grandfather, a high school headmaster, every adult in the family was engaged in the wholesale business of conch shell materials.

Needless to say, our family was a comfortably rich one in the village. Even during the great Bengal famine, popularly known as *Panchasher Mammantar*, the family was neither scorched nor singed by the heat of poverty and starvation. We possessed enough wealth in the form of gold ornaments, which were under the safe custody of my great-grandmother.

Before the nationalisation of banks in 1969, public trust in the banking

system in India plummeted woefully. Wealthy and well-to-do families lived under constant insecurity and the threat of losing their chattel. Robbery was so prevalent in rural areas that miscreants would barge into houses and plunder everything with impunity. In our ancestral village home, however, robbers dared not enter forcefully, as the family consisted of several strong and stout young men who had foiled multiple burglary attempts.

I once heard my father recall an interesting incident involving our great-grandmother. My father was then a boy, not yet in his teens. On one occasion, the entire family had to travel to the district town and stay there for a few days to attend a post-funeral ceremony of a close relative. It was the first time the house had been left without a single family member.

When everyone returned after a few days, no sooner had my great-grandmother stepped into the courtyard of the house than she began searching nervously for something on the front porch. Suddenly, she picked up a small crowbar and started digging

the soil frantically. Other members of the household joined her digging, mechanically unaware of what they were looking for.

When my great-grandfather noticed this, he scolded her sharply and demanded an explanation. With trembling lips, my great-grandmother revealed that she had packed all her gold ornaments in a small brass jewel case and buried it in the courtyard before leaving. She added that she had placed a stone to mark the spot. To her utter bewilderment, she could no longer locate her valuables.

My great-grandfather then took charge. He began tapping the ground lightly with the flat end of the crowbar until it sank slightly at one particular spot where the soil felt softer. He dug a little more, and a faint clink was heard. The tip of the crowbar had unmistakably touched the brass coffer.

My great-grandmother heaved a sigh of relief as she examined its contents and found them intact. My great-grandfather calmly explained that the stone must have been displaced somehow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Board of Peace a threat to UN’s role

US President Donald Trump’s initiative to establish a US-led Gaza Board of Peace, and to invite world leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan’s prime minister, appears designed to undermine the United Nations and effectively usurp the peacekeeping role of the UN Security Council. The Board’s mandate, authority and governance remain opaque, but its intent is clear: to assert unilateral US dominance over an issue that demands multilateral legitimacy. India has wisely refrained from

joining so far, signalling its continued commitment to a just resolution of the Palestine question through dialogue and a two-state solution. Participation merely to appease President Trump would damage India’s diplomatic credibility and long-standing foreign policy principles. Any such decision must follow wider consultation with opposition leaders, diplomats and regional experts, rather than be driven by personal equations or political spectacle. **SK Choudhury**, Bengaluru

Build AI capacity

Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh’s admission that the state is struggling to find AI professionals should be a wake-up call (Classrooms lag behind state’s AI ambition, Jan 22). For a region that prides itself as India’s technology capital, the inability of even premier institutes to supply adequate AI talent exposes a widening gap between ambition and capacity. The IT Policy 2025-2030 aims for an “AI-native” economy, but a lagging education system may hinder progress. Karnataka must focus on skilling its students to address this issue. **K Chidanand Kumar**, Bengaluru

Do away with the post

The increasing confrontation between governors and non-NDA-ruled states is a serious concern. Instead of acting as guides and philosophers, Governors have become obstacles to smooth relations between state governments and the Centre, threatening the foundations of our democratic republic. As these posts are a colonial legacy, it is time to consider abolishing them. **V Padmanabhan**, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: letters@deccanherald.co.in (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender’s postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I was the CM twice. I worked without betraying the people. I served the people in a way that satisfied my soul...When I waived off loans twice, I did not look at the Centre. I waived loan repayments by drawing on the state treasury.



H D Kumaraswamy, Union Minister and JDS MP

Self praise is no praise at all.

Lord Byron

TO BE PRECISE

Pollution poses greater threat to India’s economy than tariffs: Former IMF chief economist at Davos



IN PERSPECTIVE

India on a tightrope at Chabahar

Tariffs push India to reassess its stakes in the port. Strategic interests must be secured without alienating the US

MAHESH GANGULY AND MOHD HADI RAZA

The strategic bet India placed on Chabahar is facing its strongest test in recent times. Donald Trump’s recent threat to impose a 25% tariff on countries trading with Iran amid the ongoing volatility in the country and Washington’s push to further isolate the Islamic Republic has ruffled feathers in New Delhi’s strategic circles. Compounding this, the six-month US sanctions waiver shielding India’s operations at Chabahar is set to expire in April 2026, deepening uncertainty around one of India’s most critical projects. With reports of India’s possible pullback from the port circulating widely, officials in New Delhi have indicated cautious engagement with Washington to manage the fallout.

Located on Iran’s southern coast along the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar offers India a rare strategic corridor that bypasses Pakistan and opens direct access to Central Asia and Afghanistan. Its position outside the Strait of Hormuz shields it from maritime choke point risks; its deep-water capacity allows it to handle large vessels while its status as a free economic zone simplifies customs and taxation procedures – factors that boost its commercial viability.

More critically, Chabahar underwrites India’s access to Central Asia, a region of renewed geopolitical attention, and a rich source of uranium, rare earths, and critical minerals vital for India’s semiconductor self-reliance, defence indigenisation, telecom expansion, and green transition. New Delhi has been steadily seeking to anchor itself in the region through the Connect Central Asia policy (2012) and the India-Central Asia dialogues. Trade with Central Asian economies has steadily grown from \$500 million in 2014 to nearly \$2 billion in 2025, with estimates suggesting an additional \$2 billion in untapped potential.

Chabahar also underpins the tentative reset in ties between India and Taliban-ruled Afghanistan by serving the interests of both sides. Since Kabul fell to the Taliban, India has used Chabahar to send 2.5 million tonnes of wheat and 2,000 tonnes of pulses, keeping its humanitarian and development outreach intact.

Besides these, the port anchors the broader connectivity initiatives such as the 700-km Chabahar-Zahedan railway and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a 7,200-km multimodal network linking India to Russia and Europe via Iran. Its proximity – 170 km west of Pakistan’s China-backed Gwadar port – significantly elevates its geopolitical significance, offering India a counterweight

to China’s expanding maritime and continental footprint.

Thus, India’s long-term involvement in Chabahar reflects a multifaceted strategic logic. Its commitments reflect a confidence in Chabahar as a long-term strategic asset. However, evolving geopolitical pressures now cast uncertainty over these investments.

Fallout and damage control

Trump’s renewed sanction threat confronts New Delhi with a delicate balancing act. Scaling down operations would mean relinquishing a key geopolitical asset at a moment when India’s Central Asia ambitions, re-engagement with Afghanistan, and regional connectivity through INSTC depend on Chabahar’s viability. Any retreat could weaken India’s credibility as a reliable long-term partner, potentially ceding greater strategic space to Beijing.

Conversely, openly defying US sanctions carries high long-term costs, particularly at a time when India is already under US sanctions for its continued purchase of Russian crude and souring tensions following India’s Operation Sindoor and New Delhi’s rejection of Trump’s claim of brokering an India-Pakistan ceasefire. Further friction risks undermining India’s broader relationship with Washington – spanning from the Mineral Security Partnership, India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem, Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology, and the Quad – platforms that are central to India’s global positioning.

More importantly, Trump’s increasingly fluid and transactional approach towards Pakistan pushes India to tread carefully since any further deterioration in India-US relations could allow Islamabad a greater room to align itself more closely with Washington’s shifting priorities.

As pressure mounts on India’s strategic hinge at Chabahar, New Delhi has been compelled to reassess multiple options. Discussions within the Ministry of External Affairs on reallocating the committed \$120 million or creating a separate operating entity to limit direct governmental exposure signal this recalibration. Yet tactical adjustments alone will not suffice. India must intensify diplomatic engagement with Washington to seek workable alternatives, while simultaneously preparing contingency pathways that preserve Chabahar’s operational continuity without breaching US sanctions.

The Chabahar episode captures a classic foreign policy dilemma for India: how to safeguard a vital geostrategic asset while preserving sufficient diplomatic elbow-room to manage inevitable political and strategic fallout. The port thus stands as a strategic tightrope where every step demands balance, and every misstep carries significant trade-offs.

(Mahesh is a teaching assistant and research fellow at IIT-Bombay and Raza is a researcher at the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi)

A world in flux and the India-EU moment

SANJAY BHATTACHARYYA

India and the European Union are on the cusp of a historic realignment based on strategic interests and shared values. The inflection point benefits from the conclusion of the Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) and collaboration in future-oriented areas such as technology, energy, sustainability, defence, space, and mobility. The BTIA will have a profound influence on trade and investment, economic activity and regulatory framework, while strategic cooperation will balance geopolitics and geoeconomics.

India and the EU had established summit-level interaction in 2000, and relations were upgraded to a strategic partnership in 2004. Despite a high-level understanding, progress on the EU-track lagged behind India's close bilateral ties



with major European powers. Negotiations for BTIA, launched in 2007, had slow progress and were paused in 2014. The EU had prioritised investments in the faster-growing market in China and championed the WTO provisions expanding trade defence. India's relatively small GDP and trade share, at that time, limited its leverage. But much had changed by 2021, when negotiations resumed, and the two sides saw benefit in meeting halfway for consensus on difficult issues. Political will for BTIA, supported by industry's need for resilient supply chains, pushed for a new framework.

China's economic coercion, supply chain disruptions and acquisition of strategic assets had dimmed its lure. India's growth story was compelling and could not be ignored. Distress in the multilateral system and an ineffective WTO led India to negotiate several bilateral FTAs with countries in Europe. Shifting geopolitics and geoeconomics demanded a robust partnership between India, the largest democracy and emerging power, and the EU, the bastion of high technology and capital. The developments last year jolted strategic balance and multilateralism, hastening the India-EU consensus.

The state visit of European Council President António Luís Santos da Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will set the stage for agreements on key components of the strategic partnership.

The BTIA platform can help India's market access aspirations, although the EU's regulatory framework will be challenging. Indian exporters will need to diversify and upgrade quality, but the industry is confident that it will stimulate the revival of manufacturing, especially MSMEs, and prepare them for global competition. Moreover, as investments and technology usually follow trade, there would be new opportunities to develop niche specialisation and scale

economies for global presence in diversified supply chain partnerships.

Digital economy, technology and skill mobility are today's vectors of development. Trust and confidence will facilitate AI, cyber and semiconductor R&D, establish technology hubs and innovation bridges, mobility of professionals, expansion of GCCs, etc. The EU's open strategic autonomy in tech, health and energy can align with India's skills and scale for resilient and autonomous partnerships.

Expanding India-EU convergence on values such as democracy, human rights and sustainability will benefit from consultation and coordination. This can reduce friction and revive the rules-based order, multilateralism and multipolarity. It can also address differing perceptions on issues such as Ukraine-Russia conflict, terrorism and climate change.

Growing trust and reliability have opened possibilities in strategic areas such as defence cooperation, military industry, critical technologies and critical materials, space, energy, etc. The EU's engagement in the Indo-Pacific, support to the India-Middle East-Europe-Economic Corridor and third country initiatives in Africa are indicative of the strategic approach. A community of two billion people contributing a quarter of global GDP is both an opportunity and a responsibility. India and the EU are ready to play their due roles in global governance to shape the new world order.

Their relations are now poised to transition from trade-centric ties to a geopolitical-geoeconomic partnership. In the emerging multipolar order, both India and the EU will play key roles with their own approaches to strategic autonomy.

(The writer is a former diplomat and currently a professor at Jindal Global University)

FROM DIALOGUE TO STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host European Council President António Luís Santos da Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen from January 25 to 27

- The EU leaders will be the chief guests at the 77th Republic Day ceremony in New Delhi.

- Modi, Costa and von der Leyen will co-chair the 16th India-EU Summit on Jan 27

- The engagement comes amid strains in New Delhi's ties with Washington and President Donald Trump's rift with European leaders over Greenland.

THE LIKELY OUTCOMES

Mother of All Deals': India-EU Free Trade Agreement

- Leaders are expected to announce the conclusion of FTA negotiations

India-EU Defence and Security Partnership

- The partnership will enable joint initiatives in crisis management, maritime security, cyber defence and counterterrorism, while promoting defence industrial cooperation, supply-chain security and technological innovation

INDIA AND THE EU THE STORY SO FAR

India was among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the European Economic Community in 1962



TRADE

- The EU is India's second-largest trading partner

- In FY25, goods trade stood at \$135.7 billion

- India exported \$75.7 billion and imported \$59.9 billion, posting a trade surplus of \$15.8 billion

- Services trade is expanding steadily, with exports nearly doubling since 2019

- The India-EU FTA is expected to unlock market access, boost investment and accelerate growth

TECHNOLOGY, SUPPLY CHAINS AND RESILIENCE



- The Trade and Technology Council anchors cooperation in emerging and critical technologies

- Collaboration spans semiconductors, AI, high-performance computing, 6G, electric mobility and green technologies.

SECURITY, DEFENCE AND THE INDO-PACIFIC



- Joint naval exercises, counterterror cooperation and defence dialogues have built operational familiarity

- The new security framework reflects Europe's expanding role in Indo-Pacific and India's search for trusted partners

A template for future trade deals

AJAY SRIVASTAVA

After nearly 18 years of negotiations, India and the European Union are close to finalising a Free Trade

Agreement that could reshape India's global trade strategy. Covering goods, services and trade rules across the EU's 27-country customs union, the deal offers India preferential access to one of the world's largest and richest markets. Its timing—amid global trade fragmentation, rising US tariffs and efforts to reduce over-dependence on China—signals a pragmatic shift by both partners towards economic resilience.

For India, the trade impact could be substantial. The EU is among the world's most prosperous and stable markets, with 450 million high-income consumers. In FY2025, India exported about \$76 billion worth of goods to the bloc. Although average EU tariffs are low, key exports such as textiles and garments still face duties of around 10%. Their elimination would directly boost exports, jobs and value-chain integration.

The FTA also opens opportunities in services, particularly IT and other skill-intensive sectors, helping India reduce excessive dependence on the US market.

For Europe, the prize lies in India's scale and growth. The EU exports to India face high duties on wines, automobiles, chemicals and other industrial goods. Tariff cuts would boost exports of EVs, machinery, electronics, aircraft and other high-value manufactures, while deepening investment and supply-chain links.

Both sides view core agriculture and dairy as sensitive and have chosen to exclude them from tariff cuts. For India, opening these sectors risks the livelihoods of nearly 700 million people dependent on farming, and can trigger price volatility and food security concerns.

The EU approach—parking sensitive farm issues while closing an “executable” deal—illustrates how India can strike ambitious agreements while largely protecting agriculture. An India-US trade deal is similarly feasible without core agricultural products, which account for less than 4% of US exports to India. India has already agreed to cut tariffs on

industrial goods representing 95% of US exports to India.

Free trade agreements are now central to India's trade policy. The proposed EU pact would be India's ninth FTA

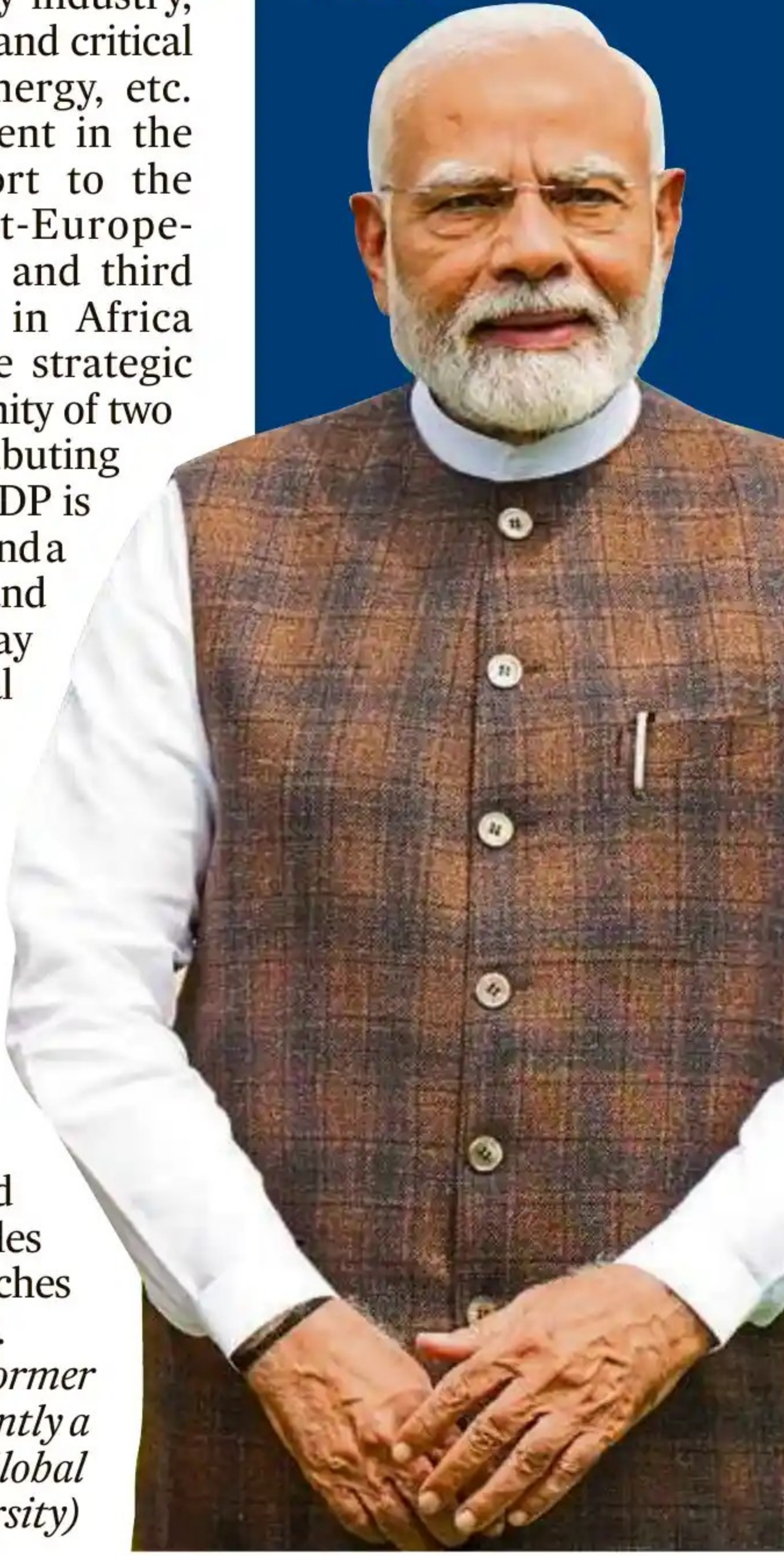
in four years, following deals with Mauritius (2021), the UAE (2022), Australia (2022), EFTA (agreed in 2024; effective October 2025), the UK (signed July 2025), Oman (December 2025), and New Zealand (December 2025). India is also active in plurilateral initiatives such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, focused on supply chains, clean economy

and standards rather than tariffs.

The India-EU FTA would set a template for future deals—open on industrial goods and services, cautious on agriculture, and focused on practical outcomes. Its real test lies in execution: managing EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) related costs for carbon-intensive exports, easing non-tariff barriers such as standards and certification, and addressing the immediate shock from the EU's suspension of GSP tariff preferences from January 1, 2026, a move which will raise duties on about 87% of India's exports to Europe, including textiles and garments, well before the FTA takes effect. If managed well, the pact could anchor a more balanced and resilient India-Europe trade partnership. *(The writer is the founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative)*



António Luís Santos da Costa



Ursula von der Leyen

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

This cancer-defeating immune system could cure it someday

Researchers found an antibody that seems to help people with lung cancer, but turning it into a treatment could be difficult, writes **Gina Kolata**

Is there a way to use the body's way of fighting cancers to make a new drug? Perhaps, according to preliminary research studies.

The idea is to exploit what is known about cancer growth. While many grow and spread and are deadly without treatment, some go away on their own or simply do not progress. They remain in the body, harmless and symptom-free. It's contrary to conventional wisdom.

But Dr Edward Patz, who spent much of his career researching cancer at Duke University, has long been intrigued by harmless cancers and has thought they might hold important clues for drug development.

The result of years of research is an experimental drug tested so far only in small numbers of lung cancer patients. The results are encouraging, but most promising experimental drugs fail after larger, more rigorous studies.

That hasn't stopped Patz from recently starting a company, Grid Therapeutics, hoping that the experimental drug will turn out to be a new type of cancer treatment.

Researchers not associated with the effort say they are intrigued by the concept.

“It's still very, very early,” said Dr Roy Herbst, a lung cancer expert who is chief of medical oncology at Yale University. “But I like it.”

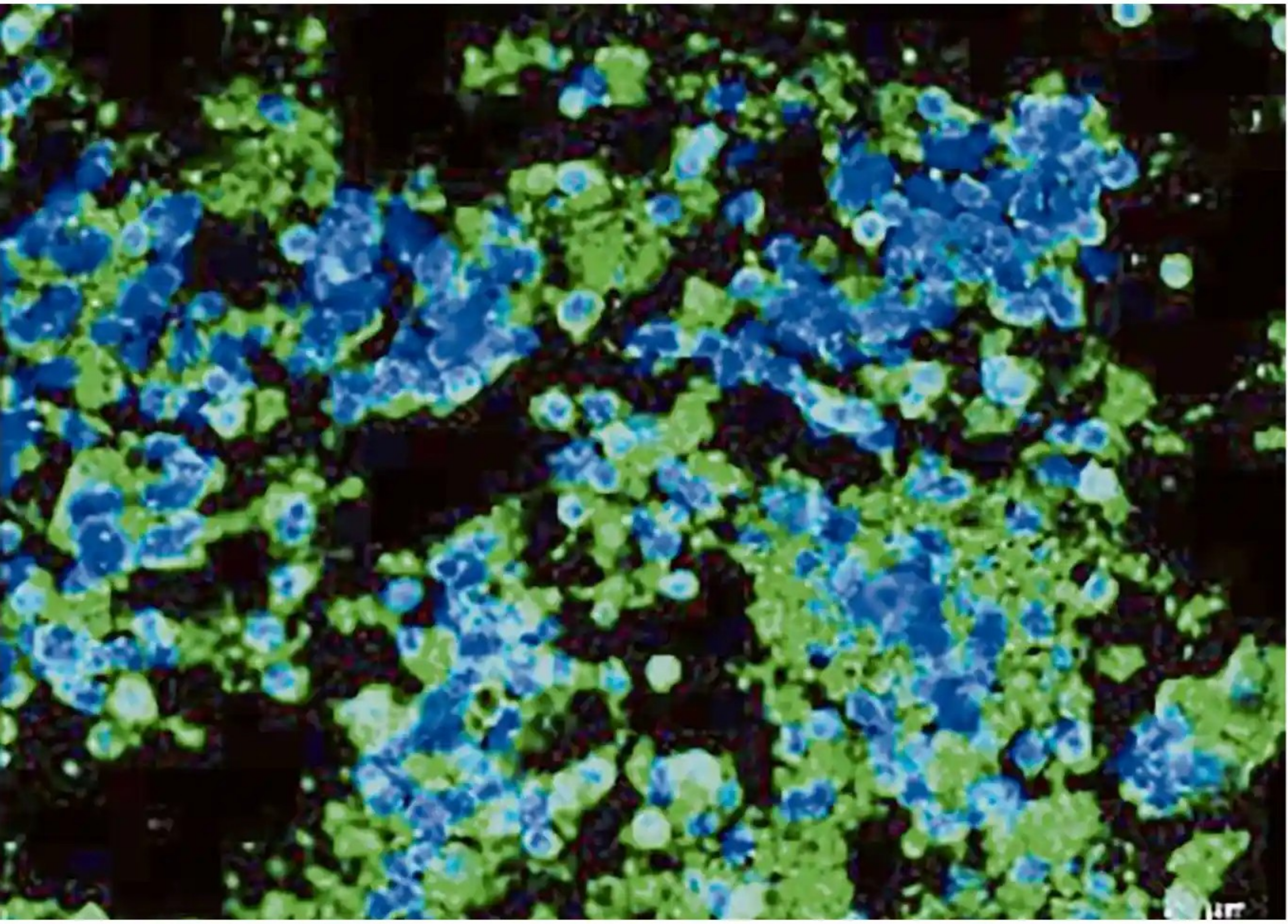
So does Dr David Barbie, chief of thoracic oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

But he cautioned that there is a long way to go from the concept to proof that the drug is causing tumours to stop growing or go away. At this point, Barbie said, “Efficacy is still an association.”

Patz's quest began decades ago. As a cancer researcher at Duke, he wanted to figure out why cancers that look similar on scans would, on inspection by pathologists and on genetic analysis, behave so differently. Some were indolent, and some were aggressive.

He decided to look for clues in lung cancer patient samples.

“We had been collecting samples for 25



An immunofluorescence image showing non-small cell lung cancer cell nuclei, in blue, bound to the antibody GT103, in green. CREDIT: PATZ LAB

years from patients who were newly diagnosed,” Patz said.

He had tumour tissue and blood samples, and records showing which patients had quickly succumbed to their cancers and which had not.

Were there distinctive genes in the tumours of those whose cancers did not recur, Patz asked? Or were particular blood proteins shed from these tumours?

His team came up empty-handed.

Then they looked in the patients' stored serum—the clear yellow part of blood without the red blood cells—for a sign that something had attacked cancer cells.

He found the clue in an antibody, GT103. After studying the serums of several hundred patients, Patz proposed that the presence of GT103 was a sign that a lung cancer patient might “do much, much better if they

have early-stage disease.”

It looked as if the antibody could prevent cancer cells from using a molecular shield—complement factor H—against the immune system. The antibody blocks that shield. When the GT103 antibody is available, an arm of the immune system kills the cancer cells.

The next step was to produce large quantities of GT103 for possible treatment. Barton Haynes of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute supplied the antibody.

Further research showed that the antibody worked in animals. At that point, Patz left Duke to start his company. It began the first stage of drug testing in lung cancer patients, focusing only on safety.

Dr Hirva Mamdani of Wayne State University in Detroit, Dr George Simon of Ohio-Health and their colleagues at Duke and the Moffitt Cancer Centre in Florida conducted

the study. It included 31 patients whose standard lung cancer treatments had failed.

The tumours didn't shrink, but they stopped growing, at least temporarily, in one-third of the patients, Mamdani said.

Simon was encouraged. “I gave it to a patient whose tumour had grown through multiple lines of therapy,” he said. “We didn't have a whole lot to offer him.” But with the experimental drug, he added, the cancer stopped growing for nine or 10 months.

The next step was to combine the antibody with pembrolizumab, an immunotherapy drug made by Merck and sold as Keytruda.

The researchers hoped the two drugs would complement each other. The antibody Patz had isolated activates one arm of the immune system. And the Merck drug unleashes another.

“Our antibody specifically kills tumour cells, but it may not kill all of them,” Patz said. By adding the Merck drug, he said, “we are trying to train the immune system to take care of everything else.”

It's difficult to know if it worked. If a significant percentage of patients had been cured, it would be obvious. But that did not happen. Tumours seemed to stabilise in most, but some then grew again.

The problem, Patz said, is that the tumours might be full of immune cells that cause inflammation, with few cancer cells. He saw that with one man's tumour that seemed to be growing. But actually, it was inflammation causing its size.

“What we find and measure on imaging are not all cancer cells,” Patz said.

But there was an astonishing outcome in one of Mamdani's patients.

His tumour, she said, completely disappeared. For two years now, scans have not found any evidence of disease. He is no longer on any treatment.

A much larger study with a control group that did not get the antibody is needed, along with hundreds of patients, researchers said.

The New York Times

DID YOU KNOW?

A cow that knows how to use a tool

Veronika, a cow from a small village in southern Austria, has stunned the world, with scientists reporting that the animal presents the first case of tool use—believed to be primarily a trait of humans and chimpanzees—among cattle.

In a study published in *Current Biology*, scientists from the University of Vienna say their research opens new windows into animal intelligence, as livestock have been almost entirely excluded from discussions of animal intelligence despite millennia of domestication for productivity.

The cow's owner first noticed this unusual behaviour long ago when the bovine used a twig to scratch its back. Over the years, she has improved her technique and can now use a broom or a rake. Using its tongue, the cow can adjust the length and orientation of the tool to scratch different parts of its body.

When the information reached the university, biologist Antonia J Osuna Mascaro travelled to the village to conduct specific experiments.

For two weeks, he conducted over 70 trials with Veronika. When a heavy deck brush is placed in front of her in various orientations, in almost every case, the cow uses the sweeper as a tool. She wrapped her long tongue around the handle, flipped it so the brush faced her body, and changed the length of the broom so the rough bristles scratched various hard-to-reach areas of her back.

In some cases, Veronika flipped the broom the other way, so the blunt handle end made contact with her body. The scientist first thought it was a mistake. But he soon realised the cow did the flip when trying to scratch her udder and other regions too sensitive for the bristles. “She knew exactly what she was doing,” Osuna-Mascaro said.

Apart from humans, such multiple use of a single tool has been observed only in chimpanzees. The apes use the thicker end of a stick to poke holes in the termite nests, and the thinner end to bring the insects out. Such behaviour was never expected among the cattle.

“Although flexible tool use has been reported in terrestrial ungulates (including a recent, well-documented case in Asian elephants) prior to our study, it had not been experimentally verified in cattle,” the scientists reported.

Such behaviour is not seen in cows in general. “Veronika's case reveals that technical problem-solving is not confined to large-brained species with manipulative hands or beaks. She did not fashion tools. But she selected, adjusted, and used one with notable dexterity and flexibility,” the University of Vienna team reported.

- Kalyan Ray



Trump says US ‘armada’ headed toward Gulf

Washington is watching Iran very closely: US Prez

WASHINGTON, AFP

President Donald Trump said a US “armada” was heading toward the Gulf and that Washington was watching Iran closely, even after downplaying the prospect of imminent military action and saying Tehran appeared interested in talks.

Trump has repeatedly left open the option of new military action against Iran after Washington backed and joined Israel’s 12-day war in June aimed at degrading Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

The prospect of immediate American action seemed to recede in recent days, with both sides insisting on giving diplomacy a chance.



A man shows a sign mentioning US President Donald Trump during a rally in support of nationwide protests in Iran, in Rome, Italy. REUTERS FILE

On his way back from the World Economic Forum in Davos, the president told reporters on Air Force One the United States was sending a “massive fleet” toward Iran “just in case.”

“We’re watching Iran,” he said. “I’d rather not see anything happen but we’re watching them very closely.”

Addressing the WEF on Thursday, Trump said the United States attacked Iranian uranium enrichment sites last year

to prevent Tehran from making a nuclear weapon. Iran denies its nuclear programme is aimed at seeking the bomb.

“Can’t let that happen,” Trump said, adding: “And Iran does want to talk, and we’ll talk.”

The commander of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards had also warned Washington Thursday that the force had its “finger on the trigger.”

Last week, Trump pulled back from a threat to strike

US sanctions Tehran’s ‘shadow fleet’

The United States unveiled sanctions Friday targeting Iran’s “shadow fleet” said to be supporting the country’s oil exports, as Washington steps up pressure over the government’s crackdown on protesters, reports AFP.

The Treasury Department took aim at nine vessels and their respective owners, which US officials said “collectively transported hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of Iranian oil and petroleum products to foreign markets.”

Iran over its deadly crackdown on the protests after the White House said Tehran had halted planned executions of demonstrators.

Overthrow ‘illegal’ Yunus regime: Hasina to people of B’desh

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bangladesh’s deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday called on the people of the country to overthrow the Muhammad Yunus-led regime, saying free and fair elections will not be possible if it remains in power.

In her first public address to a gathering in India since fleeing Dhaka 17 months ago, the Awami League leader also said Bangladesh should urge the United Nations to conduct a “truly impartial investigation” into the events of the past year and urged the people to rise up unitedly to “restore” the constitution and protect the religious minorities.

Hasina’s message in a pre-recorded audio clip was played out at an event in New Delhi, and it came a day after campaigning for the February 12 parliamentary elections began in Bangladesh. The Awami League party has been barred from contesting the polls.

Ukraine, Russia & US to discuss ‘territorial concessions’

Future of eastern Donbas region will be key focus: Zelenskyy

DAVOS, AP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the future of Ukraine’s eastern Donbas region will be a key focus as negotiators from Ukraine, Russia and the United States meet in Abu Dhabi on Friday for talks to end Russia’s nearly four-year full-scale invasion.

The UAE’s foreign ministry said the talks commenced on Friday and are scheduled to continue over two days “as part of ongoing efforts to promote dialogue and identify political solutions to the crisis.”

The three-way talks come hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the settlement in Ukraine with US

President Donald Trump’s envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner during marathon overnight talks. The Kremlin insisted that to reach a peace deal, Kyiv must withdraw its troops from the areas in the east that Russia illegally annexed but never fully captured.

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, reiterated his openness to establishing a free trade zone under Ukraine’s control in the country’s east. He said he discussed the proposal with Trump in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday, and told reporters: “I think it will be positive for our business.”

Friday is the first known time that officials from the Trump administration simultaneously meet with negotiators from both Ukraine and Russia. While it’s unclear how the talks will unfold and many obstacles to peace remain, some see it as a sign that the parties are making headway in closing a deal.

WORLD AT GLANCE

TikTok finalises deal to form new American entity

► WASHINGTON, AP: TikTok has finalised a deal to create a new American entity, avoiding the looming threat of a ban in the United States that has been in discussion for years on the platform now used by more than 200 million Americans.

President Donald Trump praised the deal in a Truth Social post, thanking Chinese leader Xi Jinping specifically “for working with us and, ultimately, approving the Deal.”

Trump revokes Canada’s invitation to join Board of Peace

► WASHINGTON/OTTAWA, REUTERS: US President Donald Trump withdrew on Thursday an invitation for Canada to join his Board of Peace initiative aimed at resolving global conflicts. Trump’s aboutface follows Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney’s speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, where he openly decried powerful nations using economic integration as weapons and tariffs as leverage.

Seven Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy

► COLOMBO, PTI: The Sri Lanka Navy has arrested seven Indian fishermen for allegedly fishing in the island nation’s territorial waters.

The fishermen were arrested and their two trawlers seized on Tuesday off Kovilan, in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the Navy said in a statement.

Trump accuses Nato of avoiding Af frontline; UK PM demands apology

LONDON, AP

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has urged US President Donald Trump to apologise for his false assertion that troops from Nato countries — other than Americans — stayed away from the front line during the war in Afghanistan.

Trump said that he wasn’t sure Nato would be there to support the United States if and when requested, provoking outrage and distress among many in the United Kingdom on Friday.

“We’ve never needed them, we have never really asked anything of them,” he said in



US President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. REUTERS FILE

an interview with Fox News in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday. “You know, they’ll say they sent some troops to Afghanistan, or this or that, and they did, they stayed a little back, a little off the front lines.”

In October 2001, nearly a month after the September 11 attacks, a US-led coalition launched an invasion of Afghanistan to destroy al-Qaida, which had used the country as its base, and the group’s Taliban hosts. Alongside the US were troops from dozens of countries, including from Nato, whose mutual-defense mandate had been triggered for the first time after the attacks on New York and Washington.

In Britain, the reaction to Trump’s comments was raw and Starmer paid tribute to the 457 British personnel who died and said the president should apologise.

India–EU trade talks to wrap up soon

NEW DELHI, REUTERS

India and the European Union are expected to announce the conclusion of protracted negotiations for a free trade pact on Tuesday, two Indian and EU government sources said.

The deal will open the way for reduced tariffs on European cars and wine and an expanded market for Indian electronics, textiles and chemicals.

An announcement could follow Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s meeting with European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who will co-chair an India-EU summit during their visit to India from Janu-

ary 25 to 28, one of the Indian government sources said.

An EU official said the bloc aimed to “conclude negotiations on the free trade agreement” (FTA) during the summit, before both sides move through internal procedures towards signing.

The two sides also expect to sign a security and defence pact - Europe’s third in Asia after deals with South Korea and Japan - along with a mobility agreement covering high-skilled workers and students, the official said.

If finalised and ratified by the European Parliament, which could take at least a year, the trade pact would boost Indian exports such as textiles and jewellery, the Indian official said.

Negotiations were relaunched in 2022 after a nine-year pause, gaining traction last year amid rising global trade tensions.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos on Tuesday, von der Leyen said the EU was close to concluding the agreement but acknowledged additional work remained.

It follows a recent EU deal with South American bloc Mercosur and other trade agreements. India has also sealed pacts with partners including Britain, New Zealand and Oman. The deals underscore efforts to hedge against the US, as Trump’s push for control over Greenland and tariff threats on European nations test long-standing Western alliances.

Bilateral trade between India

and the EU totalled \$136.5 billion in the fiscal year to March 2025, making the 27-nation bloc one of India’s biggest trading partners.

“Negotiators are still trying to bridge differences on several sensitive issues, including India’s reluctance to sharply cut tariffs on auto imports,” an EU government source said.

A key concern for New Delhi is a range of non-tariff barriers, such as the EU’s newly introduced carbon levies on imports of goods including steel, aluminium and cement.

The bloc has also withdrawn some tariff reductions granted to India as Brussels unwinds special tariff treatment for select countries under its Generalised System of Preferences.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Adani group stocks nosedive 13% amid SEC summons

NEW DELHI, PTI

Shares of Adani group companies tumbled up to 13% on Friday amid reports that the US Securities and Exchange Commission has sought the court’s approval to serve summons to Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani over alleged fraud and a \$265-million bribery case.

The stock of the group’s flagship firm, Adani Enterprises, plunged 9.38% to Rs 1,891.60 apiece, Adani Power dropped 8.84% to Rs 128.35, Adani Ports plunged 7.81% to Rs 1,303.35, and Adani Total Gas by 7.55% to Rs 507 on the BSE. Adani Ports was the biggest loser on the 30-share index.

Adani Green Energy Ltd tanked 13.20% to Rs 785 after the company reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 5 crore for the December quarter 2025.

This marks a 99% year-on-year fall from the Rs 474 crore net profit reported in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

Shares of Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) tumbled by 10.57% to Rs 827.20 on the bourse after the company posted an over 8% decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 574.06 crore in the December quarter, mainly due to higher tax expenses.

During the session, the stock also hit a lower circuit level.

Other group stocks

The weak quarterly results and regulatory developments dragged down other group stocks as well. The scrip of Ambuja Cements declined 5.98% to Rs 513.50, Sanghi Industries by 5.96% to Rs 60.06, NDTV by 5.31% to Rs 80.72, and ACC by 2.76% to Rs 1,680 per piece.

According to reports, the US SEC told a court in Brooklyn, New York, that it has been unable to secure assistance from Indian authorities in delivering the summons. Thereafter, the regulator has sought permission to serve the notices to Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani through email.

Rupee hits all-time low of 92/\$ as FIIs continue sell-off

Settles at 91.90 against greenback

MUMBAI, PTI

The rupee hit a historic low of 92-a-dollar on Friday and gained marginally to settle at 91.90 against the American currency, amid selling pressure from foreign funds and risk-off sentiment in global markets.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee gave up early gains and hit a record low of 92 per US dollar in intraday trade due to weak domestic markets and persistent foreign fund outflows. Moreover, gains in crude oil prices and a surge in US treasury yields weighed on the rupee.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 91.45 and then gained ground to touch an intraday high of 91.41 against the greenback. It fell to an all-time intraday low of 92 before

settling for the day at a record closing low of 91.90, down 32 paise from its previous closing level.

The rupee has slumped by 202 paise, or over 2%, so far this month. “We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias due to selling pressure from FIIs and risk-off sentiments in the global markets. Dollar demand from hedgers and imports may further pressurise the rupee,” said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

However, a weak dollar and any intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 91.60 to 92.30, Choudhary added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01% higher at 98.36.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.03% higher at \$64.72 per barrel in futures trade.



Gold rebounds Rs 1,500 to Rs 1.58 lakh/10 grams

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gold prices rebounded and jumped by Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,58,700 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday due to fresh buying by stockists amid strong global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Gold of 99.9% purity had closed at Rs 1,57,200 per 10 grams in the previous session, after touching an all-time high of Rs 1,59,700 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

After gold’s uptrend, silver

Benchmark indices tank 1%

MUMBAI, PTI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty resumed their downward journey to end nearly 1% lower on Friday, weighed down by widespread sell-off and the rupee hitting a record low against the US dollar. Besides, investors rushing to safe-haven assets and unabated foreign capital

outflows in the absence of domestic triggers dampened investor confidence, traders said.

In a cautious trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 769.67 points, or 0.94%, to close at 81,537.70. The 50-share NSE Nifty dived 241.25 points, or 0.95%, to settle at 25,048.65.

Mercedes-Benz plans network expansion as young Indians fuel demand

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE BENGALURU, DHNS

Enthused by strong demand for its cutting-edge, ultra-luxury cars among young, aspirational Indians, Mercedes-Benz India is looking to aggressively expand its footprint in the country this year, opening 20 new touchpoints and entering new markets.

“Mercedes-Benz will expand to 20 touchpoints by the end of 2026. We expect investments of over Rs 450 crore by our

franchise partners, and will be present through more than 145 touchpoints across 60+ cities,” Mercedes-Benz India MD and CEO Santosh Iyer said.

In line with this strategy, the German luxury carmaker on Friday inaugurated its new luxury sales and service facility, ‘Viva Star’, here. The multi-storey dealership features a 10,400-sq-ft sales space.

Highlighting Bengaluru’s importance to Mercedes-Benz’s India plans, Iyer said, “In Bengaluru, 40%



Santosh Iyer

of luxury car buyers, particularly Mercedes-Benz customers, are below 38 years of age. The city has around 31,600 millionaire households, ranking third nationally, according to a Hurun report. Karnataka’s GSDP has risen 56% over the past year, driven by technology, AI adoption, and startup leadership. These trends necessitated our net-

work expansion here.”

Apart from Viva Star, Mercedes-Benz partners with Sundaram Motors and Advait Motors in Bengaluru. The city has eight touchpoints, part of the 13 across Karnataka, which also include Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Hubballi.

Viva Star Bengaluru also houses Karnataka’s first ‘Mercedes-Maybach Lounge’, featuring a shop-in-shop concept with dedicated Maybach retail elements. “Last year, India was among the top-five Maybach

markets globally. Accordingly, we decided to locally manufacture the ultra-luxury GLS Maybach in India. While customised versions will continue as CBU imports, the core car will be made locally,” Iyer said.

The GLS Maybach will be priced at Rs 2.75 crore (ex-showroom), down from Rs 3.17 crore earlier, aided by localisation. Mercedes-Benz sold over 500 Maybach units in India in 2024, a 145% year-on-year increase, averaging nearly 10 cars a week.

India to buy \$780 million worth of oil from Brazil

GYANENDRA KESHRI NEW DELHI, DHNS

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) will sign a contract with Brazil government-run energy firm Petrobras next week for the purchase of 12 million barrels of crude oil worth \$780 million from Brazil, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Friday.

The term contract for the supply of Brazilian crude oil to India will be signed during



Hardeep Singh Puri

India Energy Week to be held in Goa from January 27-30. Other major oil and gas-related contracts are also likely to be signed during the four-day annual event.

Indian oil refiners have been reshaping their crude sourcing strategies amid tighter sanctions by the Trump administration on Russian oil.

The US has imposed a 25% punitive tariff on India for the purchase of Russian oil.

Speaking at a curtain raiser press conference on India Energy Week, Puri said oil prices are likely to remain stable despite global uncertainties.

“More and more energy is coming to the global market from the Western Hemisphere. By the Western Hemisphere, I mean Brazil, Guyana, Surinam, Canada... the US is producing 13 million barrels a day,” he said.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division,
No.44, 18th Main Road, 39th Cross,
Jayanagar 4th "T" Block, Bengaluru-560 041.

No: EE/BSCC/JN/TEND/03/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPPP only) (Two Cover System).
website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

The Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division, BSCC, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible contractors for the work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Development, Operation & Maintenance of Parking area including Civil work for parking infrastructure. Installation of Smart Parking Solutions at Jayanagar Shopping Complex in Jayanagar Assembly Constituency for a period of 10 year on PPP basis. EMD (₹ in Lakhs) Rs.2 Lakhs through KPPP Procurement

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre-Bid Meeting on 03.02.2026 at 4:00 p.m. at the Office of the Chief Engineer, BSCC, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560 011. **(2) Last date for receipt of Tenders on 12.02.2026 upto 4:00 p.m.** **(3) Date of Opening of Technical bids on 13.02.2026 at 4:05 p.m.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division, BSCC.

BANGALORE EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (MP&CS),
Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036.

No.BECC/PR/EE(MP&CS)/09/2025-26 Dated: 23.01.2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
(Short Term Tender Notification) (Through kpp.Portal only)

1. The Executive Engineer (MP&CS), BECC, Bengaluru-36, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, or GBA or BECC or equivalent Registration with/ KPWD/ CPWD/ BWSSB/ Railways/ MES/ National Highway or any state Government Organizations for the Services detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for Services given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in eligibility criteria for bidders to qualify for award of the contract (RFP Document). 2. Tenders must be submitted online through kppp portal on or before **16.00 hours on 09.02.2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. 3. Other details can be seen in the RFP documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Amount put to tender in lakhs/EMD amount in Rs.
1	Mapping of buildings and campuses using Total Stations & documenting floor-wise land utilization area statements. Within the jurisdiction of BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION Amount put to tender : Rs.50.00 Lakhs , EMD (in Rupees): Rs.1,00,000/- .

Calendar of events :
1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **02.02.2026 at 15.00 hours**
2) Tender Documents can be Downloaded from **28.01.2026**
3) Technical Bids will be opened on **10.02.2026 at 16.30 Hours onwards.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer (MP&CS)

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ - 560 100
e-Mail: k.a.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com | Web: www.doddathoguru.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂ.ದೊಡಪಂ/ತಾ.ಬಾ/ಜಿ.ಪಿ/05/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.01.2026

ಮರು ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೃಷಿ ಪೋರ್ಚು ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಬಟ್ಟದಾಸನಪುರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಯ ಸ್ವಂತ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಇಂಡಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡರ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಚು ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಚು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Sl No	Indent No.
01	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53080/Call-2
02	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53087/Call-2
03	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53085/Call-2
04	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53135/Call-2
05	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53088/Call-2

1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06.02.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ**. 2. ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **09.02.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ**. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22111177. "ಇ-ಮೇಲ್": ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com

ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಅಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಂ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಸಿ/5190/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi

Tender Invited (E-Procurement)

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi hereby invited tender from Registered Contractors for the Item rates through kppp Portal. There are total 4 (1- Construction of Drainage, CC and Asphalting Road of internal road of Shindholli village in Belgaum taluk, Belgaum district RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21255, 2-Improvement of roads in Karadiguddi village, Belagavi taluk and improvement of roads in Kangrali BK village, Belagavi taluk RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 22408, 3-Improvement of roads in Mavinakatte village of Belagavi taluk and improvement of roads in Nilji village of Belagavi taluka RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 22265, 4-Construction of CC roads in Sulebavi, Chandoora and Yaddhalabhavihathi villages in Belagavi taluka of Belagavi District RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 20842) work have been called, Standard of tender documents KW-3 for price of Hightest and Lowest Estimated Cost Rs. 409.71 Lakhs and Rs. 98.283 Lakh respectively and also Hightest and Lowest EMD has As Per Eprocurement for each work. The last date for Submission of any Quarries is 06-02-2026 17:28 PM, the last date for submission of tender bid is on 06-02-2026 17:28 PM. Opening of technical bid is on 09-02-2026 11-00 AM and Expected Financial bid will be opened on 09-02-2026 11:30 AM. For any other information/ clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet for kppp-Portal website <http://kppp-proc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
P. R. E. Division, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1691/KSMCA/2025-26

REAL SUCCESS without a REAL JOB

For Recruitment Ads call: M: 9148150850

Avenues
Your invaluable career companion

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, U. R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL AIRPORT ROAD, VIMANAPURA POST, BENGALURU - 560 017 (Phone: 080 2508-4185, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of the President of India, item-rate tender are invited for the following works:

Sl. No.	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Up-gradation of AC plant substation by providing 2 nos. 2 MVA Transformer, HT/LT Panels with connected works at URSC Main Campus, Bengaluru
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/E/C/20/2025-26 Dt. 21/01/2026
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 431.21 Lakhs
4	Period of completion in months	Eleven (11) Months
5	[Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)]	₹ 8,62,420/- valid for 180 days
6		₹ 99,320/- valid for 180 days
7		₹ 3,41,160,00/- valid for 180 days

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
Office of the Assistant Director, Bangalore Urban District,
Sri Kanteerava Sports Complex, Bangalore-560001
Office Phone:-0802239771 Mobile:-9480886545
Email ID: adyssbbangaloreurban12@gmail.com

No: AD/DYES/BU/68/RSC/2025-26 Dated: 23-01-2026

Short-term Tender (E-Procurement Portal)
Subject: Tender invited for Scheme Narega to Supply of Sports Materials. E Tender No. DYES/2025-26/IND0093

Particulars : Supplying of sports Materials. **Tender Amount:** Rs 15.00 lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 30,000/- The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>). Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

1) Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E-Procurement Portal : 07/02/2026 Till 4.00 pm 2) Opening of technical Offers : 09/02/2026 at 04.00 pm 3) Opening of Commercial Offers : 10/02/2026 at 04.00 pm. Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/- Assistant Director
Youth Empowerment and Sports
Bangaluru Urban District
(TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY)

DIPR/CP/5182/AKAR/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
(ಡಿ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಎ.ಪಾಟಿ)
Email ID: projectdirector14@gmail.com

ಸಂ.ಧಾಪೆಪಂ/ಯೋ.ಬಸ/ಡಿ-1/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-01-2026

ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ವಿವರ

ಎನ್.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಎಂ. ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಪಾಲಿಯುಮ್ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪಾವರ್ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳನ್ನು e-procurement ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ವಾಸ್ತವೀಕರಣವನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ	23-01-2026
ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ <td>11-02-2026 5.30 PM</td>	11-02-2026 5.30 PM
ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಇ-ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್‌ಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ <td>11-02-2026 11.30 AM</td>	11-02-2026 11.30 AM
ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಇ-ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ <td>18-02-2026 11.30 AM</td>	18-02-2026 11.30 AM
ಇ-ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ <td>ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಛೇರಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ</td>	ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಛೇರಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ

WEBSITE: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>,
ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **RDPR/2025-26/SE3402**

ವಿ.ಸೂ: ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಆಪ್ತತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಹಿ/- ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1143/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಟ್ಟಣ/2025-26 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಧಾರವಾಡ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eeppwdgad@gmail.com

No: EEPWDGDG PB-1 2 5 :Diferent Head : 2025-26/4660 Dated : 23.01.2026

Short term Tender Notification and Postponed Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department, Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 9 works of total amount of Rs. **723.50 Lakh** (Min estimate amount : Rs. **2.00 Lakhs** to Max Estimate Amount: **250.00 Lakhs**) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW-2 and 4, through <http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>
Work Indent No : Part-1 : 28559-2A/Call-2, 32375
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **28-1-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **30-1-2026** (c) Opening of Technical / Financial Bid Date : **31-1-2026**
Work Indent No : Part-2 : 27553
The tender for above mentioned work indent (27553) has been invited vide this office notification 4565 dated **17.01.2026** is postponed as mentioned below
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **13-02-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **16-02-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **17-02-2026** Opening of Financial Bid Date : **18-02-2026**
Work Indent No : Part-3 : 30963, 30969, 30564, 30823, 29568 & 30835-SC
(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **13-02-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **16-02-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical /Financial Bid Date : **17-02-2026** Opening of Financial Bid Date : **18-02-2026**
GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.**
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/556/2025-26

District Urban Development Cell, Vijayanagara District, Hospete-583201

No: DUDCV/Nagarothana(M)-4/Tender Notification/2025-26 Date: 21.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara District Invites tenders in two cover system using standard tender documents from Eligible contractors for **NAGAROTHANA (Municipality)-4 Project in CMC Hospete limits of Vijayanagara District ULB** as below.

Name of Work: Construction of wet well at old Amaravathi in ward No. 30 and at Dresses camp in ward No. 14 in Hospet CMC Limits Under NP-4 Grant limits. (DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52360. Amount put to Tender (in Lakhs): 163.05. EMD (in Rs): 245295.00. **Last Date for Tender Submission:** 05.02.2026 Time 16.30 Hr. **Tender Technical bid Opening Date:** 06.02.2026 Time 17.00 Hr

Interested Contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender, Contractors can download the tender documents from the <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/ KSMCA/RO No/486

Sd/- Executive Engineer, District Urban Development cell Vijayanagara District

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI.
PHONE : 08472-220196, E-mail : midnglb@rediffmail.com / midnglb1@gmail.com

IFT No. EE/MI & GWD D/KAL/PB-4/2025-26/ 4395 DATED : 23-01-2026

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-3 & 4) :-

1) Detail of Work: THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR THE WORK UNDER 4702 L.I.S.K.K.R.D.B. & S.C.P. FOR THE YEAR 2025-26, 2) Amount of Estimate : Max. Rs. 169,38,172.74, Min. Rs. 91,51,048.85, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class - 3 & Above, 4) Details of Tender Application Amount and EMD Amount : Tender Fee As Per KPP Portal E.M.D. Max. Rs. 2,54,100.00, Min. Rs. 1,37,300.00, 5) PRE-BID MEETING DATE: **31-01-2026 Up to 11.00 Hours**, 6) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: 02-02-2026 Up to 11.00 Hours 7) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: 03-02-2026 Up to 17.30 hours, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: 04-02-2026 Up to 17.30 hours, 9) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: 05-02-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours, 10) Addl. information: Executive Engineer, M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi, Address of E-Portal.: (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi**
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1017/KSMC&A/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
CEO, HASSAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Phone No's: **08172-233824**
Tender Announcement No.ಜಪಂಪಾ/ಆಭಿ(3)ಉಪಾಯೋಗ/ಹೊ.ಸಿ.ನೇ-201/2023-24. Dated: 14-01-2026

Tender Notification

Online tender has been invited at the district level through e-procurement for the provision of outsourced personnel services under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme in Hassan Zilla Panchayat. Monthly estimated amount is 58.00 lakhs. Starting date for submitting applications on the e-procurement portal: 19-01-2026, Last date: 24-03-2026, up to 5.00 pm, Technical bid opening date: 25-03-2026 at 11.00 am, Financial bid opening date for qualified technical bid: 27-03-2026 at 11.00 am

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayath, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಂಪಾ/ಉಪನಿ/ವಾಸನ/972/ಕೆಪಾಪ್ ಎಂಪಿಎ/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, SOTHERN RANGE, MYSURU
Hyder Ali Road, Kittur Rani Chennamma Cricle, Jalapuri, Mysuru-570019
Phone : 0821-2421200, 2418604,
Email: aaosrmys@gmail.com / igpsrmys@ksp.gov.in

No:ಸಂಗ್ರಹ/16/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026

Tender Notification (Trough e-procurement)

Inspector General of Police, Southern Range, Mysuru invited the following tender for Procurement of Drones under the Police Modernization scheme 2025-26.

SL NO	Tender No.	Approx. Tender value in RS Cr.
01	KSP/2025-26/IND0501	01.00

The information of Pre-bid meeting, last date and time for tender submission and other detail can be obtained at e-procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For more information, please contact the above office. **Sd/- Inspector General of Police, Sothern Range, Mysuru**
DIPR/MYSURU/1561/SSC/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
General hospital, Hosanagara.
e-mail: [moghsanagara@gmail.com](mailto:moghhsanagara@gmail.com) Ph:08185-221202
Tender Number:Tender/01/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026

e-Tender Notice invited with regard to “ Non Clinical and Supply of prepared Diet Food and Bread to In-patients”

Tender is invited through e-procurement from eligible firms for availing services of Non Clinical Services and Supply of prepared Diet Food and Bread to In-patients at General hospital, Hosanagara, Shivamogga District for the year 2025-26. Interested, eligible Tenderers should log on to department website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 23.01.2026. Last date for submission of Tender: as mentioned in e-portal. Further information can be obtained in e-portal.

Sd/- Administrative Medical Officer, General Hospital, Hosanagara, Shivamogga District.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/17501/1701

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, CENTRAL OFFICES, HUBBALLI

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 04/ME/2025-26 DATE : 23.01.2026

Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal

Tenders, both Pre-qualification & Commercial offers (Two Tender Document System) through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal are invited from the interested bidders.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description of Tender Details with approx. value
1	T-41 NWKRTC/ 2025-26/ IND0175 Dated : 20.01.2026	For the supply of 150 No's. of new BS-VI, fully built Type-II NDX, Mofussil 210" WB buses required for North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) (Tender value Rs. 56.63 Crore)

Last date & time for submission of Tender through e-portal : **09.02.2026** up to 17.30 hrs.
For details visit website:<http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
Or Contact Mobile Nos. **7760993225 / 7022009931**
Sd/- Chief Mechanical Engineer, (Tender Inviting Authority).
DIPR/Dharwad/KSMCA/1139/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Mysuru-570010,
Tel : 0821-242467374, Fax No.0821-2424665,
Email-conmr_amb@karnataka.gov.in, Web : <https://karnatakadepartmentofarchaeology.mysore.karnataka.gov.in>

CORRIGENDUM

The tender notice published in the same newspaper on 23.1.2026 (incorrectly mentioned as 16.01.2026, 21.01.2026, 23.01.2026, 27.01.2026, It should read as 30.01.2026, 05.02.2026, 07.02.2026, 09.02.2026. All other matters remain unchanged.

Sd/- Commissioner
Department of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore

LOOKING FOR JOB OPPORTUNITY

Refer Classifieds on Wednesday

Don't Miss Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

BIG PICTURE
The perils of walking in urban India.

BOOKS
Speed reads on AI and biology.

ART & PURSUITS
Satisfy Gjuraj: A man for all seasons.

WELLNESS
How should diabetics keep sugar spikes under control?

GENDER
All the 'what-ifs' in love.

FOOD & DRINK
A reboot of the all-day dining scene.

Follow us <https://www.facebook.com/dh> <https://www.instagram.com/dh> <https://www.youtube.com/dh> <https://www.linkedin.com/dh>

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD
No.16, 2nd Raj bhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001
Ph: 080-22867369, e-mail: cgmksamb@gmail.com

Tender No: KSAMB/ACCTS-FD/Tender/AUCTION111/4285/2025-26 Dated: 23.01.2026

e-TENDER CUM e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION CALL-2

Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board, Bengaluru is inviting e-bidding through KPP portal from Nationalized Banks/ Regional Rural Banks for placing of **Rs.20.00 Crores** (Rupees Twenty Crores Only) for One year in Fixed Deposit (Non-Callable). The detailed information can be obtained from www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal vide Indent No:APMC/2025-26/AUCTION111 The last date for participation Date: **31.01.2026**

Sd/- Chief General Manager KSAMB, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/5199/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಕ್ರಮಗಳೂರು

ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08262-220936 E-Mail: zpedekm@rediffmail.com
ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:29/2025-26/2ನೇ ಕರೆ 2946 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.01.2026
-:-ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :- (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಕ್ರಮಗಳೂರುರವರು ಚಕ್ರಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ತರೇಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.65.12 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.24.37 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ Standard Tender Document KW-2& 3 ರಂತೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲಗತ್ತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.01.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:03.02.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಆಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.02.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.05 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:11.02.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ದಿನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು kppp.karnataka.gov.in website ನಲ್ಲಿ ಒದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಕ್ರಮಗಳೂರು

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division,
Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092.

No. BNCC/EE/SD/TEND/11/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC invites tender from eligible registered agencies in any state Govt. Organization for providing services mentioned in the Table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Mapping of buildings and campuses using Total Stations & documenting floor-wise land utilization area statements within the jurisdiction of Bengaluru North City Corporation. EMD : Rs.1.00 Lakhs.

Calendar of Events : (1) Last date & time for Queries (only through online) : **31.01.2026 upto 4.00 PM.** (2) Date and time of Pre-bid meeting : **31.01.2026 upto 3.00 PM.** (3) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **06.02.2026 upto 4:00 PM.** (4) Opening of Technical bid : On **07.02.2026 at 4:30 PM** if possible next working day. (5) Opening of Financial bid (If Possible) : On **09/02/2026 at 4:00 PM** if possible.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC

City Municipal Council Haveri 58110

Website: www.havericity.mrc.gov.in Telephone no.: 08375-232444
E-mail: itsstaff_ulb_haveri@yahoo.com Janhita Help Line : 080-23108108
District : Haveri State: Karnatak

REF NO.CMC/CIVIL/CR- /2025-26 Date: 21-01-2026

TENDER NOTICE

The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Haveri invites tender Under (Amruth-2.0 scheme) of Rs.90.74 Lakhs "Development of Ashwini Nagar Tank park on ward No. 31 and Prakruthi Park at Vidyanagar in ward no.08" indent no. 49760- call-3 In KPPP portal, Interested Contractors can refer and participate in this website kppp.karnataka.gov.in and for further clarifications visit CMC office Haveri.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner CMC, Haveri



BINNU'S biggest win

Rachna Chhabria writes about a young boy who feels unseen until one brave moment changes everything

As the list of different prize winners' names was being announced in the school assembly, Binnu's heart sank. This year too, many of his classmates had received prizes: Naman for best handwriting, Aditya for best athlete, Natasha for elocution, Shivay for drawing, Diya for drama, Keya for debate, Hriday for essay writing, Yalini for Maths, Shivani for quiz, William for attendance, Rahil for best prefect, and Vera for best assignments.

A tear rolled down Binnu's cheek. He quickly brushed it away, pretending to rub his eye. He was sure he would receive at least one prize this Annual Day. He was espe-

cially confident about winning the general knowledge prize, but Surya beat him to it by one mark. And the swimming competition he was confident of winning was postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, thereby depriving him of a prize.

Binnu watched his classmates return from the stage with medals.

"No prize for Binnu again this year," Rahil teased as they walked back to the classroom. "No prize for Binnu ever," Aditya, his benchmark, said, making a face.

"No prize for Binnu," Binnu muttered. "Prizes don't even know I exist."

At home too, his cousins and his aunt teased him about never winning a prize. Binnu was exhausted by all the teasing. Luckily, as it was Friday, he would be driving to his grandparents' place near the sea to spend the weekend with them, putting an end to it. Luckily, his grandpar-

ents never teased him about anything. In their eyes, he was a champion. They considered his loving nature a big prize.

After a three-hour drive, Binnu's entire family reached the town of Tarbela. His grandparents were thrilled to see him. His cousins watched wide-eyed as they fussed over Binnu.

The next morning, Binnu and his entire family went for a walk, with his grandparents showing them places of interest.

As they neared the beach, a group of children playing football caught their attention. Binnu badly wanted to play with them, but since they were strangers, he felt too shy to join.

He sat down on the bedsheet his grandmother had carried to the beach to enjoy the sumptuous

spread she had made for them. All the dishes were her signature ones: egg cutlets, methi puris with spicy dry potatoes, mirchi pakoras, fried rice, and milk pedas. After eating their fill, the children stretched themselves out for a short snooze, while the adults were engaged in conversation.

A loud scream rent the air. The children woke up with a start, while the adults turned in the direction of the screams.

The children who had been playing earlier were now pointing towards the seashore, where a small boy had run to get the football back. Chasing the football, which had rolled all the way into the sea, the small boy was shocked to find a huge wave approaching him. Before anyone could help, the wave struck the seashore and swept the boy away as it retreated.

They could see the boy's arms as he struggled in the water, trying to save himself from drowning.

Binnu looked around. No one made a move to save the boy. Binnu ran towards the sea and dived in. All anyone could see was Binnu swimming strongly towards the boy. Within a few seconds, Binnu reached him, brought him ashore, and laid him on the ground.

Everyone clapped, and a loud cheer rang through the beach. The boy was conscious, but shell-shocked. The boy's large family rushed towards him.

A drenched Binnu was wrapped in a blanket by his grandfather. Then the family led Binnu to the van.

At home, Binnu was given hot haldi milk and soup. A doctor was summoned.

After checking Binnu, the doctor declared him fine. The family heaved a sigh of relief. Binnu spent the weekend in bed, much to his chagrin.

When he returned to school on Monday, he was surprised to see a police van screech into the gate, along with a cavalcade of cars.

During the assembly, the school principal was visibly excited as he announced, "We have a very special guest in school today, and he would like to talk to you all for a few minutes."

A tall man walked onto the stage, followed by his bodyguards.

Everyone gasped. It was Chief Minister Kedar Nath.

"Good morning, students," he said.

"It's my pleasure to be here on the eve of Republic Day. I would like to thank a special boy who is standing among you today. He showed courage and presence of mind that even adults couldn't muster."

The students exchanged puzzled looks. Who was this special boy?

"Can I please request Binnu Varma to come to the stage?" Nath said.

Binnu nervously walked up to the stage.

The Chief Minister shook hands with him. "My family couldn't thank you on Saturday, when you saved my son, Karanveer, from drowning in the sea at Tarbela."

So, the boy he had saved was the Chief Minister's son!

The next day, after the Republic Day parade, Binnu was presented a medal and trophy for showing bravery and courage far beyond his age.

Finally, Binnu had won a prize!

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN



DIY tricolour craft

These Republic Day decor can be made using simple stationery

Flying birds

Materials needed:

- Square origami sheets (orange, white, and green)
- Pencil/black sketch pen (optional)
- Glue
- Chart paper/greeting card base
- Scissors

Method:

- Place the orange square paper on a flat surface and fold it diagonally in half to make a triangle.
- Fold the left corner of the triangle upward towards the top point, and repeat the same with the right corner to form

a kite-like shape.

- Fold the entire shape in half sideways, like closing a book, to make it long and narrow.
- Fold the top flap downward to create one wing, then flip it over and repeat on the other side to create the second wing.
- Fold a small portion of the front tip downward to form the bird's head and beak.
- Gently open and adjust the wings so the bird looks like it is flying.
- Repeat the same steps using the white and green square papers.
- Paste these birds in the following order — orange, white, and green — from top to bottom, either on a chart paper for a decorative display or on a thick card paper to make a big greeting card.

Tricolour fan

Materials needed

- Paper (orange, white, and green)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Scale
- Small white paper
- Thin stick/skewer/ice-cream stick
- Tape

Method

- Cut three same-size rectangles from the orange, white, and green papers, and make sure all three pieces are equal in width and length.
- Fold the orange paper back and forth into small pleats like a hand fan, and press each fold neatly to keep the pleats sharp.
- After this, fold the white paper back and forth into the same fan-pleat style, keeping the fold width similar to the orange one.

- Lastly, fold the green paper back and forth into the same fan-pleat style. Match it with the other two fans.
- Fold each pleated strip in half and pinch the centre tightly so the pleats look like a 'V' shape in the middle.
- Join the folded pleats by sticking the inner edges together so that orange covers one side, white covers the top centre, and green covers the other side.
- Adjust the pleats gently into a full round shape, so it opens like a circle and looks evenly spread.
- Stick a small white paper circle in the centre and draw 24 lines on it to represent the Ashoka Chakra (as in the image).
- You can stick two ice cream sticks on the two ends — one on the orange side and the other on the green side — so that it is easy to open the fan from end to end. Or place a stick in between the two ends to hold it like a handheld badge.

Should CANDY be banned?



Open Sesame readers talk it out

Candy should be banned to safeguard public health, especially among children.

It contributes to rampant obesity, diabetes, and tooth decay because of its excessive sugar content — often exceeding daily recommended limits in a single serving.

Studies link high sugar intake to long-term issues like heart disease and cognitive decline. Healthcare costs from diet-related illnesses strain economies, diverting billions from education and infrastructure. Banning candy would reduce these expenses while promoting fresher, nutrient-dense foods.

Natural fruits provide sweetness without harm, fostering healthier habits from a young age. A ban will encourage innovation in low-sugar treats, benefiting society in the long run.

ANVITA TOMAR, 13
Mandya, Karnataka



Candies are a favourite among children, as they give instant happiness and pleasure. They attract kids because of their sweet taste.

Consuming candy can have some harmful effects. They contain a lot of sugar, which can cause tooth decay and obesity, and may even lead to diabetes in the long run.

Despite this, children are attracted to candies because of their different shapes, and the variety of colours and flavours.

Candies are also a part of most celebrations and festivals. They add to the joy and fun of such occasions.

If candies are completely banned, they may become even more tempting for children.

Banning candies may also affect the livelihood of many people who sell them.

I feel that instead of banning candies, we should teach children to consume them in limited quantities.

I always try to limit myself and eat candies in moderation, balancing their good and bad effects, while still enjoying childhood moments.

Therefore, I vote against banning candies.

SANNIDHI BHAIANNAWAR, 10
Dharwad, Karnataka



LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to Subhas Chandra Bose

If you got the chance to have a conversation with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, whose birth anniversary is on January 23, what would you like to ask him, and what would you tell him about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city, and send us a recent photograph. Entries close on January 29.



This Week:

Republic review

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.



Q1

What did the Constituent Assembly of India (the legislature of the Dominion of India after August 15, 1947) become once the Constitution of India came into effect, on January 26, 1950?

Q3

Which ceremony, on January 29, involving stirring performances by the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force bands, brings the Republic Day festivities to a solemn and sonorous conclusion?

Scan the QR code

Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.



Q2

The first Republic Day parade was held at what was later named Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium. What was that venue called when it was built in 1933?

Q5

Clue Cluster: Who chaired the committee that drafted the Indian Constitution? Use these clues.
a) Kalaram Temple
b) Poona Pact
c) Law Minister
d) Economics

Q4

Rhyme Time: Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Twice a guest at the Republic Day parade was Yugoslavian president ____
Clue B: Authoritative prohibition.

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Niketha Rajesh (12), Bengaluru; Sharanya Patil (12), Kalburgi; Sanvi Chalageri (14), Bengaluru.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'Special people in my life' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in. Entries close on February 5. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.



Word of the Week

wallow

(verb)

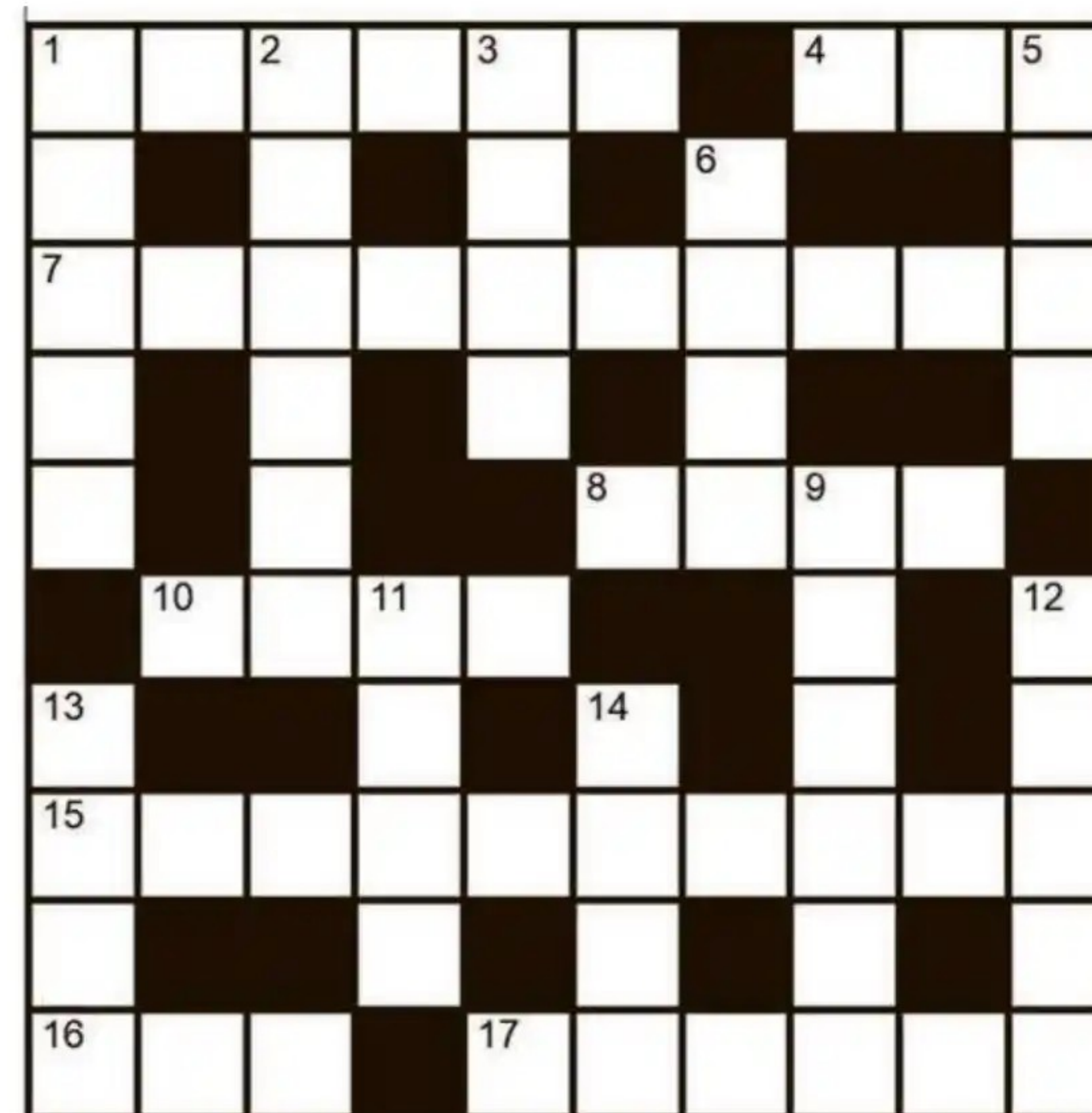
— to lie or roll around slowly in deep, wet earth, sand, or water

Usage:

— The buffaloes wallowed in the muddy pond to cool off.
— Kaustabh enjoys a good wallow in the bath.



CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

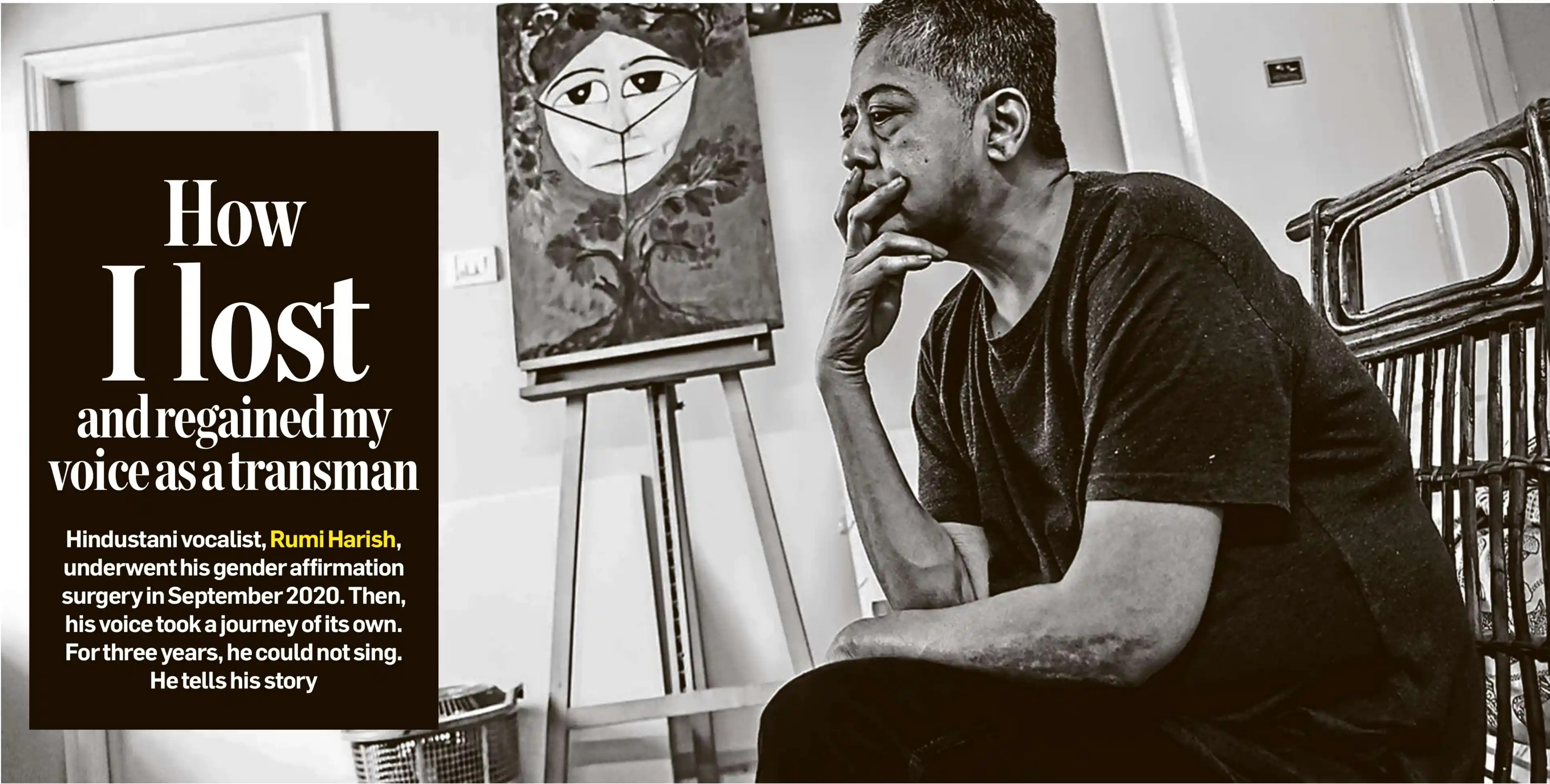
Across

- 1 What a rolling stone gathers (2,4)
- 4 Himalayan animal (3)
- 7 What an apple a day keeps (6,4)
- 8 Word indicating multiplication (4)
- 10 Organs of vision (4)
- 15 What a journey of a thousand miles begins with (6,4)
- 16 Poorly lit (3)
- 17 Where all roads lead (2,4)

Down

- 1 Poke with the elbow (5)
- 2 Walt Disney mouse (6)
- 3 Display (4)
- 5 They open locks (4)
- 6 To caution (4)
- 9 Inked design on skin (6)
- 11 Ova (4)
- 12 Plentiful (5)
- 13 Utilised (4)
- 14 Lead character in a story (4)

ANSWERS:
Across: 1 No moss, 4 Yak, 7 Doctor
Down: 1 Nudge, 2 Mickey, 3 Show,
step, 16 Dim, 17 To
12 Apple, 13 Used,
14 Hero.



DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

How I lost and regained my voice as a transman

Hindustani vocalist, **Rumi Harish**, underwent his gender affirmation surgery in September 2020. Then, his voice took a journey of its own. For three years, he could not sing. He tells his story

When I was 16, I made two important decisions—I will not sing patriarchal devotional songs, even for the sake of the audience. And I will not believe in God. I simply did not have that in me, and it has remained that way. I believe in my music. I am in my 50s now. I was once a woman. But now I am a man—a transman. I had my gender affirmation surgery in 2020. But I started living as a man, albeit in a woman's body, in 2014.

While gender affirmation is a more acceptable conversation to have now that it was even 10 years ago, a unique challenge for me was that I'm a Hindustani vocalist.

At the start of my transition, I had no idea how it would affect my voice and my craft. The transmen I know are not singers. And I had no reference for what to expect.

I was born Sumathi Murthy. My mother, Kanaka Murthy, had a strong influence on me. She was a renowned sculptor, perhaps one of the very few female temple sculptors in the country. She was very masculine—she spoke and carried herself that way. I was always very much like her.

I began learning music when I was six. My first guru was Pandit Ramarao Naik, a direct disciple of Ustad Faiyaz Khan, exponent of the Agra Gharana. My guru can be credited with popularising the Agra Gharana in Karnataka. He would make me practise for 10 hours a day. I did that for 18 years. I was always aware of my feelings and attractions but I did not know how to express them. I only started asserting my gender and orientation when I joined activism at age 27.

I did not enjoy being a woman and all the things considered womanly. Unfortunately, in the Hindustani music sphere, women artistes are expected to dress and carry themselves a certain way. Coy, modest and falling at the feet of the ustads. I could not do it.

My biggest challenge was wearing a sari and singing. Once, when I was around 28, my sari came undone on stage after a performance. I joke about it now, but it was extremely embarrassing.

My family expected me to be married by 20-22 and have kids by 24. But thankfully I was obese, so though around 30 potential grooms came to see me, I was rejected by most. If anyone showed interest, I would let it slip that I had PCOD and I could not bear children. It sent them packing.

But in the music circles, I faced ridicule for my unmarried status. They would introduce me and say “Should we call you Kumari or Srimati?”. It was a big joke for these individuals who subscribed to traditional ideas of womanhood and musicianship, but I failed to see the humour. I did not understand how my marital status had a bearing on my music.

My unmarried status meant that invitations to perform at concerts were hard to come by. Coming out made my prospects grimmer. The biggest challenge was getting other musicians to play for me and with me on stage. Everyone was keen on staying away from me.

Sexuality journey

I was about 16 or 17 when I had my first heartbreak. I was in a relationship with a girl. I had been asking my guru for a while to start teaching me thumris, a genre of music that focuses on themes such as love, separation and devotion. He would always say it was not yet time. After my break-up, he somehow sensed that I was finally ready. He had no idea about my relationship status and I do not think he cared.

My mother's guru, D Vadiraja, was a very different kind of man. He was the first non-toxic masculine presence in my life. He would take me along to watch films. With him I watched ‘Umrao Jaan’ and ‘Mughal-E-Azham’. These films gave me an early understanding of sexuality and gender, but of course, not in the words we use today.

My friend Famila, a transwoman, was the one who introduced me to the term ‘trans-man’. “Oh, you are a transman,” she told me one day. That helped me understand why I walked a certain way and carried myself a certain way, and why I felt so uncomfortable being a woman.

I was extremely close to Famila. Unfortunately, she died from suicide in 2004.

Surgery process

Though I had my surgery in September 2020, I started taking testosterone shots months in advance. My age was a concern, but my doctor did not dissuade me from doing it. His name is Dr Madhusudhan G and he leads a team of sensitive and skilled doctors who conduct these surgeries in Bengaluru.

I was not ready for the bottom surgery or phalloplasty (penis reconstruction) so I did not have that done. I never liked it. I also want to tell society that there are men without penises. There's no need for a penis to decide who is a man. I don't show macho masculinity. I just got my breasts, uterus and ovaries re-

moved. The surgery went smoothly and I was put on lifetime testosterone. I was concerned about how it was going to affect my voice. I did not want to lose it at any cost.

My father decreed that I could not undergo the surgery before his death. But I knew I could not wait because I was already in my mid 40s. My mother, on the other hand, had no problem. The only question she asked was how it would affect my health. It was a valid question. I am a diabetic. So before the procedure, I had to shed some weight and get healthy.

Voice transition

My voice is still changing. I do not know where it will go and where it will finally land. But it has been a painful and heartbreaking journey.

Sometimes, my voice is heavy and thick, sometimes it's slightly thinner. But it has been interesting tracking the trajectory of my voice transition.

I started taking testosterone in 2019, before my surgery. But initially, it was in very small

Before surgery

A gender affirmation surgery is like any other surgery. One has to be mindful of comorbidities, weight, age and overall health before going in for it.

While there is a lot of awareness around transwomen, transmen are largely overlooked. The government needs to recognise us.

I paid around Rs 3 lakh for my surgery. But not everyone can afford it. It would make a huge difference if the government subsidises it. I chose not to have a penis reconstruction surgery. But those opting for it make a decision based on what they need it for—to urinate, for sex, or because ‘that is what makes a man’.



doses—100 mg for the first three months. Later, the dosage was increased. So from January 2020, my pitch started getting lower.

Before, notes A or A sharp were my comfort zones. When I first came down to note G, I was shell shocked. This was four notes lower than I was used to, but I was very comfortable with it. In fact, I realised I could sing lower in the lower octave. When I hit G in the lower octave, I was so happy. My voice sounded beautiful. Slowly it dropped to F and then to E. I am now able to hit D sharp. I am unable to sing in the higher pitches. My tanpura strings started getting looser and looser and eventually I had to restring it. But it was also confusing. Just when you are getting used to singing at a particular note, your voice drops further and the adjustment takes time.

In January 2021, I contracted a regular cough. I could not speak and consequently, could not sing either. I was on antibiotics and I was trying all sorts of home remedies. I would try to sing frequently but all attempts were futile. When I look back, I wonder if the loss of voice was my second puberty.

The first few months of 2021 were brutal. In April I lost a very dear friend who was a sex worker. Then, in May, I lost my mother.

It was my trans and other queer friends who were curious about my voice journey. But I think I was the first one to call it ‘voice transition’. Around this time, I took up the Re-frame Fellowship in Delhi. Vani Subramanian, feminist activist and documentary filmmaker, and some of her friends introduced this fellowship for creative expression. I proposed to write a play on voice transition and the politics of music—a sort of personal narrative. It was a multi-lingual play (English, Kannada and Hindi) and even had a few musical pieces. It is called ‘Journey From A to E, And More...’. Unfortunately, I was simply unable to sing what I had written the first time it was staged. In the original script, I had written that I do not know what will happen to my voice and which direction it would take.

Between 2021 and 2023—almost three years—I just could not sing. Even when I tried, my voice sounded so different. I did not sound like myself. I thought I had lost my talent forever. I was grasping at straws trying to hold on to it. Most of the help or advice I received did not make much of a difference. During this time, I asked for guidance from artistes like T M Krishna, Samarth Nagarkar, Shubha Mudgal, M D Pallavi and the late Rajeev Taranani. Their inputs helped a lot.

Over the years, as I regained my voice and as it kept changing, I have had to keep tweaking the script to account for my voice changes.

I am currently in love with my voice. I have had to adjust the way I sing certain raags. I do not go for speed, but draw out every word. That is where the beauty lies. I have to thank my guru Aditi Upadhyay, the daughter of Pandit Dinker Kaikini. She has a beautiful low voice similar to mine, and listening to her has inspired me.

Crisis management

In the early 2000s, I started working in crisis

intervention with queer and trans people and sex workers. So I was a regular visitor at police stations. I would help connect individuals with lawyers and the police.

The community is always in need of support. I do not know how many more queer people would have killed themselves without it. I have heard of honour killings because of an individual's queerness. It is usually associated with relationships, but no one talks about the lives snuffed out because of sexuality.

At the time, not many groups were engaged in crisis intervention, especially for female-assigned queer, trans and intersex people. It was very difficult. It has become easier now after the process became more structured following the 2014 NALSA judgment and the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 2018.

While doing crisis intervention, we would go to the police stations with a copy of the Constitution to seek justice.

Getting misgendered is something I deal with regularly. It's an easy slip and sometimes I understand, especially when it is a genuine mistake. But some people do it intentionally.

When I was visiting police stations regularly for my work, the staff could not understand what I was. One officer was especially perplexed when I introduced myself as a transmasculine man—he thought I was a man who became a woman and then became a man again!

A year or so after I started living as a man, I was invited to perform at Vidhana Soudha for Tipu Jayanthi. I got down at the venue's back entrance, my tanpura in hand. A police officer who I recognised from my police station visits stopped me and began yelling ‘Ey suley, illi yenu madidiya?’ (You prostitute (slut), what are you doing here?). I was offended on many counts, but not for the reasons one might think. I told him I do not consider the word ‘suley’ an insult. It is work. But I pointed out that his assumptions were incorrect as I do not do sex work, but make music. Luckily, the organisers intervened and escorted me to the stage. Later, after learning I was a respected musician, the officer apologised to me.

Love and relationships

I was always in love with women. But after my surgery, I started feeling attracted to men. My friend, Sunil, pointed out that I was a true homosexual! More importantly, I have started realising that I am drawn towards intellect. Gender is immaterial.

Whichever way my orientation swung, I have never believed in structured relationships. I believe in friendships, and sex is a part of those friendships.

I have known Sunil, another transman, for over 20 years, and we currently live together. But we are not exclusive.

Love is not limited. For me, it could be between three, four or even five people.

I believe this journey of attractions and desires is continuous and lasts one's lifetime. *(As told to Rashmi Rajagopal.)*

Like this story?
Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

One ensemble, different musical worlds

Aditya Prakash tells Charumathi Supraja that his band's music is shaped by curiosity, rigour, and an openness to uncertainty

Their music is a celebration of diverse musical genres. At the Mahindra Kabira Festival, held in Varanasi last December, the Aditya Prakash Ensemble presented a set list anchored in the poetry of Kabir. Yet, the repertoire included Karnatik and Hindustani raga-based compositions, rhythmic detailing, and instrumental melodies—some familiar, some new.

The voice of lead singer and founder Aditya Prakash, who currently works between Los Angeles and Chennai, anchored the performance. Equally fundamental to the band's sound were renditions by Chris Votek on the cello, Vishnu Ramprasad on the navtar, and

Sumesh Narayanan on multi-percussion. A raga-tanam-pallavi-esque composition by Prakash in raga Keeravani, a memorable Naiharwa in which Votek's cello played a key role, Ramprasad's melodic storytelling on the navtar (which he has invented to access the musicality of the veena, sitar, sarod and guitar in one instrument), and rhythmic detailing by Narayanan through konnakol, mridangam, cymbals, cajon and other percussion instruments were hallmarks of the concert. The band's unified voice spoke volumes of the rigour and flexibility of each musician's practice.

The band, formed in 2011 when Prakash was in college, comprises a shifting set of musicians from across backgrounds and locations. Their three



The Aditya Prakash Ensemble at a festival in Varanasi. PIC: TEAMWORK ARTS

albums—‘The Hidden’ (2012), ‘Mara’ (2016), and ‘Diaspora Kid’ (2020)—reflect the varied musical influences that shaped the founder's formative years, growing up in Los Angeles while learning Karnatik music in India. ‘Diaspora Kid’ brings together rock, alternative,

hip-hop, indie folk, and more than one form of Indian classical music.

The ensemble was never intended to be “a fusion band” but a place “to discover new musical material”, says Prakash. While studying ethnomusicology and navigating his training in Karnatik music, he was surrounded by musicians from different musical worlds. Initially connected by “the rigour of practice and a shared obsession with listening to great masters”, they started jamming together. Soon, their collaborations were presented “on stages, in jazz clubs, and at festivals and homes.”

Initially comprising fixed members, the ensemble later became “more fluid”. The prerequisite to collaboration is “a shared sensibility, deep listening,

comfort with uncertainty, and respect for source traditions without feeling constrained by them,” he says. For him, “the goal of performance is not perfection” but “staying present and learning to lean into imperfections.”

He explains, “Stepping outside a familiar framework opens up a larger field of possibilities. You develop a deeper understanding of your own voice. If approached with respect and curiosity, diverse training brings strength and gives you more tools to express who you are musically.”

Prakash is looking forward to more performances with the band in India and abroad this year. “Smaller versions of the band” and more music anchored in Kabir's poetry are on the cards.

The religious outrage over A R Rahman’s interview obscures his other concerns, one of them being the corporatisation of film production, writes S R Ramakrishna

This week’s A R Rahman’s interview, in which he said he wasn’t getting enough work because of communal bias, has upset trolls and set them off on a rampage. Diehard fans have received his comments with bewilderment though. How could a composer, perceived as India’s most sought-after, be complaining about work not coming his way? How could the ‘Mozart of Madras’, with two Oscars and a host of other prestigious awards under his belt, sound like a struggling composer? “People who are not creative have the power now to decide things, and this might have been a communal thing also, but not in my face,” Rahman said in his interview with BBC

Asian Network aired on Wednesday. He said the last nine years had been slow for him, hinting at the rise of a right-wing cinema establishment that wasn’t keen on hiring him. The reaction was swift—many didn’t like his comment about the ‘communal thing’. Interestingly, the trolls had little to say about the ‘people who are not creative’ bit. Rahman, who made a sensational debut with ‘Roja’ (1992), has in recent years spoken about the difficulties of composing music in a corporatised film industry. In a 2018 interview with *Deccan Herald*, he had spoken about his Hollywood travails: “The mainstream movies are always about a gang of people coming in... like corporates, accountant-type of people who come in and dictate, ‘This music is not working’. There are like 12 people coming and attacking you.” He had also spoken about how he approached Tamil and Hindi cinema: “Hindi has a more simple vibe, I think. The more simple, the better it is in Hindi. If the lyric drives the song... they are very happy with simple songs, simple beautiful songs. Here, people are always thirsty for newness, they are like, ‘What is he going to do?’ That

is great. That thirst is what makes you push.” Rahman’s list of hit films in Hindi is long. It includes ‘Dil Se’, ‘Lagaan’, ‘Swades’, ‘Rang De Basanti’ and ‘Ranjhana’. All of them were released before 2015, and it is true that he hasn’t seen success of that magnitude in later years. But then, much has changed, and music lovers buying and treasuring CD albums is long gone. Rahman began his musical career as a teen, playing sessions for Ilaiyaraaja and composing commercial jingles. His film breakthrough came when Mani Ratnam hired him to score for ‘Roja’. Rahman delivered a string of hits in Tamil before he forayed into Hindi cinema. Although Hindi cinema has embraced heroines from the south — Vyjayantimala, Hema Malini and Sridevi being among the top favourites — it hasn’t been as receptive to men. Ilaiyaraaja, Kamala Haasan and S P Balasubramanyam have contributed to Hindi cinema, but they didn’t thrive in Mumbai as much as they thrived in the south. Rahman is the first to win lasting acceptance and success in Hindi cinema. He became a pan-Indian

phenomenon in the 1990s, bridging linguistic, cultural, and stylistic divides. Not many have rushed to his defence in the current controversy. Many insiders have said Bollywood is free of communal bias; it has cheered for such stars as Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Aamir Khan. On the other side, actor Naseeruddin Shah has repeatedly spoken about rising Islamophobia. In 2015, Amir Khan expressed worries about intolerance, and faced a backlash similar to the one Rahman is facing now. Swara Bhasker and Zoya Akhtar are among those who have faced boycott calls for films perceived as anti-Hindu. Are there non-religious factors that might explain Rahman’s slowdown? When he debuted, he was hailed as a wizard fusing technology and music. At 59, he faces competition from savvy young composers for whom technology poses no



challenge. Some industry insiders suggest Rahman may have priced himself out of the competition. Singer Shaan says fluctuating work is “common for artistes,” attributing it to creative churn rather than bias. The advent of artificial intelligence offers a new challenge for composers. It is cheap, and quick. Rahman was born A S Dileep Kumar, and his conversion to Islam (in 1989) adds fuel to controversy. Rahman spoke about ‘Chinese whispers’ reaching him about how five composers had

been hired for a film he was to score for. A team of five composers means five styles and five approaches to one story. Rahman has founded a music academy in Chennai and is supportive of young artistes, but he is unlikely to be comfortable with sharing credit in a film whose musical quality he has no control over. The trolls unwittingly strengthen his argument. Even if religion is not costing him film contracts, it is clearly policing his words and motives.



Andrzej Wajda
IN PURSUIT OF TRUTH

Frequently censored or shelved, the Polish auteur’s films were instruments of resistance, writes N Vidyashankar. Wajda’s work is in focus at the BIFFes, starting next week



Wajda was a leading figure of the Polish Film School until his death in 2016.

Contemporary global politics presents a familiar paradox. Modern western civilisation, with its long history of colonisation and imperial power, continues to operate under the ideological garb of democracy, liberalisation, and free-market economics, pursuing relentless wealth creation with scant attention to ethical questions of distribution, equality, or empathy. Simultaneously, the Eastern Bloc — often masked as socialism — advances a strikingly similar agenda in the name of progress. Together, these competing power formations have enabled oligarchies, authoritarian regimes, and military juntas, particularly across socially underdeveloped regions and emerging economies. Emerging technologies have further consolidated these political and economic orders, as have technology-driven cultural instruments — cinema, television, and digital media. This dynamic is not unprecedented. During the Cold War, ostensibly opposing ideological blocs exercised comparable control over resources and creative labour, also shaping cultural production to serve political ends. Culture and resistance have historically been regarded as threats to entrenched power structures because they question authority and expose mechanisms of subjugation. Art, by contrast, is inherently inclusive: it invites collective engagement in the pursuit of truth, embraces diversity, and resists homogenisation. It is precisely this quality that renders art dangerous to authoritarian regimes, regardless of their ideological banners. It is within this broader political and cultural framework that the retrospective of Andrzej Witold Wajda at the upcoming Bengaluru International Film Festival, assumes particular significance marking the centenary year of the filmmaker’s birth. It serves as both homage and critical re-engagement. Wajda’s cinema offers sustained reflections on resistance, and the role of art during periods of historical trauma

brought about by political violence — irrespective of the ideological justifications of those in power. Poland’s 20th century history is marked by two major phases of resistance. Armed resistance, embodied by the so-called “cursed soldiers”, waned by the 1950s. The late 1980s, however, witnessed a far-reaching civil-society movement through strikes, protests, and underground networks. This movement forced negotiations with the state and culminated in partially free elections. At its centre was Solidarity, which began as a trade union but evolved into a mass social movement challenging the state’s monopoly on power and exposing the contradictions of a regime claiming to represent workers’ interests. Its commitment to non-violence proved crucial, enabling broad participation and sustained pressure even during the imposition of martial law between 1981 and 1983. The cumulative effect of this movement rendered the existing political system untenable, paving the way for a peaceful transfer of power and influencing democratic transitions across the Eastern Bloc. Wajda emerged as a central cultural figure within this historical moment. Through allegory, symbolism, and direct historical engagement, his films articulated critiques of systemic oppression. He influenced and connected contemporaries such as Krzysztof Kieslowski, Krzysztof Zanussi and many other prominent filmmakers of his time in sharing a fight for artistic freedom. Although Wajda began his filmmaking career during the era of armed resistance in the 1950s, it was his cinematic engagement with the Solidarity movement — characterised by aesthetic complexity and political nuance — that most clearly established his role as an artiste of resistance. Born on March 6, 1926 and active until his death on October 9, 2016, Wajda was a leading figure of the Polish Film School. His international recognition included an Honorary Academy Award, the Palme d’Or, and honorary Golden Lion and Golden Bear awards. He first gained prominence through his war trilogy — ‘A Generation’ (1955), ‘Kanał’ (1957), and ‘Ashes and Diamonds’ (1958) — films that redefined cinematic representations of war, memory, and moral ambiguity in post-war Europe. Across a career spanning more than 50 films, Wajda consistently confronted Poland’s most painful historical experiences: the Warsaw

Ghetto (‘Samson’, 1961; ‘Korczak’, 1990), the fate of resistance fighters after the imposition of communism (‘Ashes and Diamonds’), Polish responses to the Holocaust (‘Holy Week’, 1995), and the Solidarity movement itself (‘Man of Iron’, 1981). His films are equally notable for their extraordinary performances, showcasing the depth of Polish acting talent — from Elzbieta Czyżewska’s introspective vulnerability in ‘Everything for Sale’ (1969), to Zbigniew Cybulski’s iconic fatalism in ‘Ashes and Diamonds’, and Wojciech Pszoniak’s portrayal of the Jewish industrialist in ‘The Promised Land’ (1975). Among Wajda’s most politically consequential works are ‘Man of Marble’ (1976) and ‘Man of Iron’ (1981). These films dismantled state-sponsored myths and legitimised dissenting narratives at critical historical junctures. ‘Man of Marble’ interrogated the cult of the socialist hero and exposed the Stalinist-era propaganda, planting the seeds of political scepticism. Throughout his oeuvre, Wajda returned to themes of historical trauma, constructing a cinematic archive that preserved memory while resisting ideological appropriation. His work articulated a vision of national identity grounded not in doctrine but in human dignity and ethical responsibility. By confronting forbidden subjects, Wajda transformed filmmaking into an act of public defiance. He also mentored younger filmmakers, fostering a tradition of politically engaged cinema that gradually eroded state control over cultural expression. He once observed: “The censors were monitoring words, but we used a language of images.” Ultimately, Andrzej Wajda’s films were instruments of resistance, ethical inquiry, validation of lived experience, and catalysts for political change. In doing so, they contributed decisively to the cultural conditions that enabled Poland’s transition away from authoritarianism in that period. (The author is a well-known film critic)

MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S
Hypernationalist ode to J P Dutta’s ‘Border’

PRANATI A S

Hypernationalist narrative, mass action sequences and unevocative nostalgia are the best ways to describe ‘Border 2’. Although the movie offers some heartwarming moments in flashbacks of the soldiers’ lives, they are overshadowed by the director’s display of over-the-top nationalism — amplified by the deafening background music in the climax. The 1997 ‘Border’, directed by J P Dutta, explored the Battle of Longewala of the Indo-Pak War of 1971, that was fought at the Indian border



Diljit Dosanjh and Sonam Bajwa in ‘Border 2’.

post of Longewala, in Rajasthan’s Thar Desert. ‘Border 2’ establishes itself as a sequel by exploring four other battles and operations that took place during the same 1971 war — Operation Chengiz Khan, Battle of Poonch, Battle of Basantar and Defence of

★★★★☆
Border 2
Hindi (Theatres)
Director: Anurag Singh
Cast: Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh, Varun Dhawan, Ahan Shetty

INS Khukri. The movie follows three defence officers from the Defence Academy — Major Hoshiar Singh Dahiya (Varun Dhawan), Fg Offr Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon (Diljit Dosanjh) and Lt Cdr M S Rawat (Ahan Shetty) — their friendship and brotherhood. It is this part of the movie that is heartening

and touching. But soon, you realise that the director intends on using these poignant stories of the soldiers and their families to glorify war. The film does not even come across as technically sound. The VFX is jarring and most of the movie looks like it’s shot behind a green screen. While the film does try to balance its narrative by showing the losses of war, it fails to effectively show the horrors of wars — in the sense that it is not an anti-war film, which is the need of the hour. Having said that, the scenes featuring Diljit and three Kashmiri kids will stay in my memory for a very long time.

Vijay shines as the voice of the oppressed

JAGADISH ANGADI

Drawing from his experience as a writer on ‘Kaatera’ (2023), director Jadesh K Hampi uses similar content-driven narrative template for ‘Landlord’. He brings together feudal system, oppression, struggles of working class, constitutional ideals of social justice and equality, and the caste system to shape a compelling storyline. A Dalit farm worker dreams of owning two acres of land. This dream is pitted against the unyielding resolve of the landlord to continue his feudal legacy. Years later, his son, Rachaiah (Duniya Vijay), vows to fulfil his father’s dream. Once Rachaiah acquires the land, he faces multiple difficulties, even leading to the murder of his mother. He rises as a voice of resistance for the oppressed villagers. But will he succeed in bringing them justice? Although the movie is very predictable, well-choreographed action sequences, strong performances, evocative moments, and thought-provoking dialogues keep the audience engaged. Vijay shoulders the film with



Duniya Vijay and Rachita Ram.
★★★★☆
Landlord
Kannada (Theatres)
Director: Jadesh K Hampi
Cast: Duniya Vijay, Rachita Ram, Shishir Baikady, Raj B Shetty, Rithnya Vijay

a compelling performance. Raj B Shetty is terrific as the ruthless landlord, while Umashree again proves her prowess with a powerful portrayal. The high-decibel background score distracts from the overall viewing experience. A subplot involving an inter-caste marriage and the repeated references to the Constitution feel forced. And some scenes defy logic. For example, after being brutally attacked, Rachaiah suddenly reappears for a confrontation. Despite shortcomings, ‘Landlord’ leaves an impact.

Sharp and witty sports comedy

HITA PRAKASH

What is it about sports that compels someone to make it their purpose? Fame, money, recognition. Sure. But all of these are mere embellishments to the core that every athlete chases — the intoxicating feeling of winning! ‘Marty Supreme’ is Hollywood’s latest addition to the genre of sports-comedy drama. It explores the multiple layers of an American table tennis player in his quest for excellence — the heights and depths, the hope and despair, and the dreams termed delusional. Directed by Josh Safdie, starring Timothée Chalamet as Marty Mauser, the two-hour 30-minute part biopic, partly fictional set in the 1950s, is sharp, fast-paced, witty and gives you an insight of the maddening storm Marty had to endure to channel his inner calm to perform. As the focus of the plot is on everything outside the sporting arena, troubled relationships, strained USA-Japan ties post the pacific war, nuances such as arrogance and impulse turning into fear and submissiveness are all packaged with an adequate amount of flips, hooks, lobs



Timothée Chalamet
★★★★☆
Marty Supreme
English (Theatres)
Director: Josh Safdie
Cast: Timothée Chalamet, Gwyneth Paltrow, Odessa A’zion, Kevin O’Leary

and topspins. Chalamet is a treat to watch on screen. Gwyneth Paltrow as Kay Stone and Odessa A’zion as Rachel Mizler stand out. If the background score hits all the right cords, simple one-liners are relatable and strike an emotion. For example, towards the end of the most important match of Marty’s life, his nemesis Milton Rockwell (a business tycoon) warns, “You will never be happy again!”. How, when and where the protagonist responds to that threat and whether or not the paddler (in wide-leg, double-pleated trousers) finds ‘the core’ he was desperately on the hunt for is for you to find out in the theaters. Clue: A smile.

A regressive, women-bashing dud

SHRADDHA A K

Zaid Khan’s romantic thriller had the ingredients to be compelling, but an overload of twists and cheap humour turns it into a tiresome watch. ‘Cult’ follows Madhavan, fondly called Maddy (Zaid Khan), as he navigates life after betrayal. Scarred by the infidelity of his girlfriend Geeta (Malaika Vasupal), Maddy develops a deep resentment towards love. This emotional premise, however, collapses early on. In the very introduction, Maddy helps a bride flee her wedding to reunite

with her soulmate — an act that directly contradicts his professed hatred for love and commitment. This contradiction is never meaningfully addressed, weakening the foundation of the narrative. Despite sincere performances from the cast, the film suffers from the absence of a cohesive plotline. Characters are intro-

★★★★☆
Cult
Kannada (Theatres)
Director: Anil Kumar
Cast: Zaid Khan, Rachita Ram, Malaika Vasupal



Zaid Khan in ‘Cult’.

duced with promise but are denied the arcs and depth required to make their journeys believable. Emotional beats feel rushed, and dramatic moments are often undercut by forced humour that feels outdated and unnecessary. The film’s problematic worldview is troublesome. It repeatedly reinforces the idea

that women are inherently unfaithful and primarily responsible for failed relationships. The film tries to touch upon serious issues such as sexual harassment and rape, but does so without sensitivity or responsibility, leaving the audience uncomfortable rather than informed or moved. Ultimately, while the actors make a genuine effort, the film’s confused storytelling, tonal inconsistency, and questionable messaging prevent it from living up to its potential. What could have been a nuanced exploration of love and betrayal instead ends up being a missed opportunity.



‘Man of Marble’ interrogated the cult of the socialist hero and exposed the Stalinist-era propaganda.

Thanush wins under-14 title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Thanush Shekar of Karnataka, the national No. 1 in the under-12 ranking, claimed a double in the Harsha Lingappa Tennis Academy AITA Under-14 Championship Series tennis tournament, sponsored by Priya Krishnappa, here on Friday.

The second-seeded Thanush defeated Dhanush S M 6-3, 6-7 (8), 6-2 in the boys' final before partnering his singles title rival to win the doubles crown as well.

The pair beat Adhish PM and Samvrath BS 6-4, 6-2 in the final.

Second seed Sharvi Gahlaut bagged the girls' singles title, beating third seed Saanvi Mohan 7-6 (9), 6-3.

Results: Singles: Boys final: BC Thanush Shekhar bt Dhanush SM 6-3, 6-7 (8), 6-2. **Doubles final:** Thanush/Dhanush bt Adhish PM/ Samvrath BS 6-4, 6-2.

Girls singles final: Sharvi Gahlaut bt Saanvi Mohan 7-6 (9), 6-3.

Duke Of Tuscany wins feature

KOLKATA RESULTS

Pesi Shroff-trained Duke Of Tuscany won the Indian Champion Cup, the feature event of the races on Friday.

1. Ophion Handicap - 1200M: Blaze In Blue (Sharon Singh) Nikhil Naidu 1; Lehana (Azharuddin) 2; Mountain Gold (Hindu Singh) 3; Happy Morning (Ashhad Asbar) 4; Wb: Shd, 3-1/2, 3/4L. T: 1:14.00. TB: Vijay Singh. Fav: Soui Aquarian.

2. Aggregated Plate - 1100M: Silver Dream (Subir Dasgupta) Suraj Narredu 1; Starliner (JH Arul) 2; Rambha (Trevor Patel) 3; Seona (Vaibhav) 4; Wb: 3-1/4, 2-3/4L. 9L. T: 1:07.49. TB: Vijay Singh. Fav: Rambha.

3. Police Cup - 1400M: Brave Majesty (Neil Darashah) Trevor Patel 1; Sky Hawk (Vishal Bunde) 2; Wonderful (Imran Chisty) 3; Immortal Beauty (Vikrant) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 2-3/4, 1-1/2L. T: 1:25.77. TB: Neil Darashah. Fav: Brave Majesty.

4. Zeldia Cup - 1600M: Mindful (Mrs BE Saldanha) Suraj Narredu 1; Cigar Galaxy (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Victorious Omren (Imran Chisty) 3; Booster Shot (Nikhil Nadiu) 4; Wb: 3, 4, 3-1/4L. T: 1:36.28. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Mindful.

5. Albert Piperno Memorial Cup- 2000M: Ruling Star (Koushik Datta) Gaurav Singh 1; Whirlwind (MS Deora) 2; Zarak (Imran Chisty) 3; Karnaveer (Azaruddin) 4; Wb: Dist, 3-1/4, 4L. T: 2:06.87. TB: Rajender Reddy. Fav: Whirlwind.

6. Indian Champion Cup - 2000M: Duke Of Tuscany (KN Dhunjibhoj) Suraj Narredu 1; Golden Kingdom (MS Deora) 2; Trakila (Trevor Patel) 3; High Command (Ashhad Asbar) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 1-1/2, 1/2L. T: 2:05.55. TB: Pesi Shroff. Fav: Duke Of Tuscany.

7. Dancing Phoenix Handicap - 1400M: Jimmy Bee (Rafiullah Khan) Vishal Bunde 1; Keitaro (Vinod Shinde) 2; Cristaldo (Sai Kumar) 3; Sporting Trainer (Varun) 4; Wb: 4, 1-1/4, 3/4L. T: 1:25.80. TB: Sabeel Shariff. Fav: Jimmy Bee.

Bengaluru Dividends:
I race: Rs 48w; 18, 23, 36p; Fc: Rs 1.063; Q: Rs 992; Shp: Rs 79; Thp: Rs 91; Tri: Rs 35.503 (c/o); Ex: Rs 42.411 (c/o). **II race:** Rs 16w; 10, 14p; Fc: Rs 99; Q: Rs 74; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 46 & 20. **III race:** Rs 19w; 14, 13.15p; Fc: Rs 94; Q: Rs 85; Shp: Rs 42; Thp: Rs 57; Tri: Rs 429 & 183; Ex: Rs 1.201 & 344. **IV race:** Rs 17w; 10, 11, 20p; Fc: Rs 30; Q: Rs 14; Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 107 & 99; Ex: Rs 313 & 141. **V race:** Rs 44w; 13, 10p; Fc: Rs 65; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 27; Tri: Rs 52 & 26. **VI race:** Rs 14w; 10, 14, 12p; Fc: Rs 26; Q: Rs 35; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 39 & 21; Ex: Rs 387 & 267. **VII race:** Rs 21w; 12, 12, 20p; Fc: Rs 62; Q: Rs 28; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 152 & 179; Ex: Rs 1.394 & 502. **Jackpot:** Rs 1.507 (309). **Runner-up:** Rs 180 (1111). **Treble:** Rs 178 (33). **II treble:** Rs 236 (374).

ON TV

CRICKET

WPL: RCB vs Delhi Capitals (7:30 pm). **LIVE on Star Sports 1, JioHotstar.**

U-19 WC: India vs New Zealand, Japan vs Tanzania (1 pm). **LIVE on Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

2nd ODI: Sri Lanka vs England (2:30 pm). **LIVE on Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

Ranji Trophy: UP vs Jharkhand, Puducherry vs J&K. Gujarat vs Railways. (Day 3, 9:30 am). **LIVE on JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: West Ham vs Sunderland (6 pm). Man City vs Wolves, Burnley vs Tottenham, Fulham vs Brighton (8:30 pm). Bournemouth vs Liverpool (11 pm). **LIVE on Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Valencia vs Espanyol (8:45 pm). Villarreal vs Real Madrid (1:30 am, Sunday). **LIVE on FanCode.**

TENNIS AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Carlos cranks up the volume

Sabalenka 'all over the place' in hard-fought victory over Potapova

MELBOURNE, AFP

Carlos Alcaraz stepped up his quest to win a maiden Australian Open as he overwhelmed showman Corentin Moutet on Friday to reach the last 16 while Aryna Sabalenka said she was "emotionally all over the place" in victory.

Three-time finalist Daniil Medvedev battled through on day six at a warm and sunny Melbourne Park, as did third seeds Coco Gauff and Alexander Zverev.

Top seed Alcaraz was never in danger against French 32nd seed Moutet, easing through 6-2, 6-4, 6-1 at Rod Laver Arena in 2hr 5min. It was the Spaniard's 100th Grand Slam match and he boasts a remarkable 87-13 win-loss record, matching the legendary Bjorn Borg at the same stage of his career.

Victory thrust Alcaraz into a clash for a place in the quarter-finals with American 19th seed Tommy Paul, who progressed when Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina retired with an apparent knee injury when two sets down.

Women's top seed Sabalenka did not have it easy against unseeded Russian-born Anastasia Potapova of Austria, pulling through 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (9/7) in just over two nervy hours.

The Belarusian is trying to win the title for a third time in four years, having been stunned in last year's final by Madison Keys.

The 19-year-old Mboko defeated Clara Tauson of Denmark 7-6 (7/5), 5-7, 6-3.



Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka exults after defeating Austria's Anastasia Potapova in the women's singles third round in Melbourne on Friday. REUTERS

Gauff, the third seed, plays 19th seed Karolina Muchova next after beating fellow American Hailey Baptiste 3-6, 6-0, 6-3. The 21-year-old Gauff has won the US Open and French Open, but her best performance in Melbourne is the semi-inals.

Jasmine Paolini, the seventh seed from Italy, was on the end of an upset against American Iva Jovic.

The 18-year-old Jovic won 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) to make the last 16 at a major for the first time.

Medvedev's revenge

Russia's 11th seed Medvedev faces 25th seed Learner Tien of the United States next. It is a rematch of their late-night five-set epic last year, when the youngster stunned Medvedev

in a second-round match that finished just before 3:00 am.

The gutsy Medvedev on Friday fought back from two sets down against unseeded Fabian Marozsan of Hungary.

The 2021 US Open champion, who had a wretched record at the majors last year, scraped through 6-7 (5/7), 4-6, 7-5, 6-0, 6-3 in 3hr 43min. It was the fifth time in his career that the former world number one has come back from two sets down to win.

In other matches, Germany's Zverev, well beaten by Jannik Sinner in last year's final, dropped a set for the third match running before easing past British 26th seed Cameron Norrie 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Home hope and sixth seed Alex de Minaur also stayed

alive, downing American Frances Tiafoe in straight sets. Play on Saturday will start at 10:30 am on the main courts because temperatures are forecast to hit a brutal 40C later in the day. **Results: Singles: 3rd round: Men:** 1-Carlos Alcaraz (ESP) bt 32-Corentin Moutet (Fra) 6-2, 6-4, 6-1; 19-Tommy Paul (USA) bt 14-Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (ESP) 6-1, 6-1, 0-0 ret; 6-Alex de Minaur (Aus) bt 29-Frances Tiafoe (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 7-5; 3-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt 26-Cameron Norrie (GBR) 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; 18-Francisco Cerundolo (Arg) bt 13-Andrey Rublev (Rus) 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3; 11-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Fabian Marozsan (Hun) 6-7 (5), 4-6, 7-5, 6-0, 6-3.

Women: 1-Aryna Sabalenka (BLR) bt Anastasia Potapova (AUT) 7-6 (4), 7-6 (7); 17-Victoria Mboko (Can) bt 14-Clara Tauson (Den) 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-3; 29-Iva Jovic (USA) bt 7-Jasmine Paolini (Ita) 6-2, 7-3; 3-Coco Gauff (USA) bt Hailey Baptiste (USA) 3-6, 6-0, 6-3; 19-Karolina Muchova (Cze) bt Magda Linette (Pol) 6-1, 6-1; 12-Elena Svitolina (Ukr) bt 23-Diana Shnaider (Rus) 7-6 (4), 6-3; 8-Mirra Andreeva (Rus) bt Elena-Gabriela Ruse (Rom) 6-3, 6-4.

Heat forces change in scheduling

Temperatures of 40C are forecast to roast the Australian Open on Saturday, forcing a change of schedule and warnings for fans, reports AFP from Melbourne.

Play will start in Melbourne at 10:30 am on the main arenas, compared to the normal 11:00 or 11:30 am.

Other courts will start match action as early as 10:00 am, with organisers warning spectators to take precautions against the extreme heat and sun.

RCB eye final ticket with win over Delhi Capitals

VADODARA, PTI

Delhi Capitals will require a strong all-round effort to stop an in-form Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their tracks to stay alive in the race to the Women's Premier League playoffs here on Saturday.

Capitals showed signs of resurgence with a seven-wicket win over the Mumbai Indians in their previous match, moving to fourth place in the table with four points.

But DC will have to raise their game by another notch to beat the Royal Challengers, still unbeaten in this edition of the WPL.

So far, Delhi's batting has been led by veteran Lizelle Lee (213 runs), with Laura Wolvaardt (123) and Shafali Verma (149) giving her occasional support. But the form of Jemimah Rodrigues was a matter of concern.

Rodrigues made an unbeaten fifty in the win over Mumbai to ease the worries to an extent, and she will have to chip in against RCB with another substantial innings.

DC also has some gaps

Confident Gukesh faces Nodirbek

WIJK AAN ZEE (THE NETHERLANDS), PTI

A win in the previous match boosting his confidence, India's world champion D Gukesh (in pic) will meet joint leader Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in the sixth round of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here.

Gukesh, who defeated Thai Dai Van Nguyen of Czech Republic with black pieces in the fifth round, will have another black game to negotiate. But, if the form of the youngest ever world champion is any indication, the colour of the pieces should not matter.

Missing out on a superior position in the opening round against Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan and then being slightly shaky against Dutch Grandmaster Jorden van Foreest, Gukesh conceded that the start might have been indiffer-

ent but everything was well now. With four draws and a lone victory, the Indian is sharing the fourth spot with three points in his bag, a half point behind Abdusattorov, Sindarov and Hans Niemann of United States.

Arjun Erigaisi started off with a win against R Praggnanandhaa and then had three draws thereafter. He lost to Vladimir Fedoseev, the Russian who is representing Slovenia.

Erigaisi's loss was disappointing as he went down amidst wild complexities which is considered to be his forte. With 2.5 points, Arjun slipped to joint seventh spot from being a co-leader and will hope to make a strong comeback against Matthias Bluebaum of Germany in the sixth round.

Defending champion Praggnanandhaa is one player who has not performed up to expectations of his huge fanbase.

Naroditsky died of cardiac issues

WASHINGTON, AFP: American chess grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky (in pic) died last year after suffering an abnormal heartbeat and had multiple drugs in his system at the time, according to a toxicology report that ruled the 29-year-old GM's death an accident.

Naroditsky, a chess star and streamer credited with helping expand the game's audience, was found dead at his home in Charlotte, North Carolina in October. Police said at the time that his death was being investigated as a potential overdose or suicide.

The report from the North Carolina medical examiner's office says Naroditsky

died from "probable cardiac arrhythmia" caused by an inflammatory disease impacting the organs.

He had methamphetamine, amphetamine and the plant-based supplement kratom in his system, according to the report, which lists the drugs as contributing factors in his death.

The report says the drug concentrations in Naroditsky's system were at "levels considered non-toxic/non-lethal."

It notes no "suspected illicit substances or paraphernalia were present" when Naroditsky was found by friends in October, and a postmortem exam revealed

"no evidence of injury."

Aneesh stands tall amid collapse

Karnataka in trouble after slipping to 168/8 in reply to MP's 323

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's frailties against quality bowling attacks were exposed again as a frenetic collapse unfolded with the hosts staring down the barrel at 168/8 in 58 overs against Madhya Pradesh on the second day of their penultimate Ranji Trophy Elite Group B fixture in Alur (I) here.

At stumps, Karnataka were still 155 runs behind Madhya Pradesh's 323 and needed six more to avoid the follow-on.

However, things could have been worse if not for a coming-of-age batting performance by young opener Aneesh KV (80 n.o., 153b, 8x4). The 24-year-old, who averaged 19.46 in his first-class career before this innings, found the perfect opportunity to showcase his mettle, with an innings of great assurance for the future under pressure.

While he was losing partners at the other end, Aneesh held one end up and, in the process, reached his first first-class fifty in 107 balls, and also stitched an 82-run partnership with Shreyas Gopal (41, 76b, 5x4).

Once Shreyas was trapped in front by Saransh Jain (3/42), MP picked up Shikhar Shetty (5) and Vidyadhar Patil (4) before the end of play.

Mayank Agarwal (0, 7b), having missed two sessions of play on day 1, opened



Karnataka's Aneesh KV flicks one to the boundary during his unbeaten 80 against Madhya Pradesh on the second day of their Ranji Trophy game. DH PHOTO/ PRASHANTH HG

alongside Aneesh. However, he failed to survive a nervous two-over passage before lunch and handed a simple catch to point.

Devdutt Padikkal's (0, 1b) return to the Ranji Trophy ended in a first-ball duck as he was trapped in front of the wicket

by Saransh. Padikkal, however, was unhappy with the umpire's decision.

Karun Nair (12, 19b), who was fluent in his short stay, was short of his crease after a mix-up with Aneesh while attempting a quick single as Karnataka

SCOREBOARD

MADHYA PRADESH (I Innings, 0/n: 244/5): Yash Dubey c Vidyadhar b Shikhar 29 (54b, 6x4), Himanshu Mantri lbw Vyshak 39 (114b, 4x4), Shubham Sharma c sub Kruthik b Shreyas 33 (151b, 2x4), Venkatesh Iyer c Vidwath b Vyshak 87 (135b, 12x4), Rajat Patidar c Aneesh b Shreyas 30 (48b, 4x4), Saransh Jain lbw Vidwath 32 (46b, 6x4), Aryan Pandey c sub Kruthik b Vidwath 5 (25b, 1x4), Akshat Raghuvanshi b Vidyadhar 22 (76b, 1x4), Sagor Solanki c sub Kruthik b Vidyadhar 20 (39b, 2x4), Kumar Kartikeya b Vidyadhar 0 (2b), Kuldeep Sen 0 (not out). Extras (W-7, B-9, LB-10) 26. **TOTAL (all out, 116.1 overs) 323.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-53 (Yash), 2-89 (Mantri), 3-164 (Shubham), 4-233 (Venkatesh), 5-233 (Patidar), 6-256 (Aryan), 7-281 (Saransh), 8-322 (Sagar), 9-322 (Kartikeya). **Bowling:** Vidwath Kaverappa 20-6-

50-2, Vidyadhar Patil 22-1-4-56-3, Vyshak Vijaykumar 22-5-71-2, Shikhar Shetty 27-4-70-1, Shreyas Gopal 24-7-56-2, Karun Nair 1-0-1-0. **KARNATAKA (I Innings):** Mayank Agarwal c Sagar b Aryan 0 (7b), Aneesh KV (batting) 80, Devdutt Padikkal lbw Saransh 0 (1b), Karun Nair (run out) 12 (19b, 1x4), Shrijith KL c Himanshu b Sen 7 (17b, 1x4), Abhinav Manohar st Himanshu b Saransh 14 (22b, 2x4), Shreyas Gopal lbw Saransh 41 (76b, 5x4), Shikhar Shetty lbw Aryan 5 (31b), Vidyadhar Patil b Sagar 4 (12b), Vyshak Vijaykumar (batting) 2. Extras (LB-3) 3. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 58 overs) 168.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-2 (Agarwal), 2-5 (Padikkal), 3-19 (Nair), 4-39 (Shrijith), 5-60 (Manohar), 6-142 (Shreyas), 7-155 (Shikhar), 8-162 (Vidyadhar). **Bowling:** Kumar Kartikeya 10-1-45-1, Aryan Pandey 10-1-25-2, Sa-

were reduced to 19/3. Coach Chandrakant Pandit's plan to bring in Saransh from Kumar Kartikeya's (0/45) end turned out to be a good call as Abhinav Manohar (14, 22b) was stumped after missing a loopy delivery after dancing down the track.

Earlier, Vidwath Kaverappa (2/50) kept bowling full, in contrast to his spell on the first day, and consistently got the ball to move both ways. And it paid dividends as early as his second over of the day when Aryan Pandey (5, 25b) nicked it to keeper Kruthik Krishna.

He continued to stay around the four-metre area and got the breakthrough by dismissing Saransh (32, 46b) LBW to infuse more energy in the camp.

While Vidwath meant business, Vidyadhar was not far behind and kept the pressure on from the other end. He got Sagar Solanki (20, 39b) into a tangle as Kruthik took a brilliant catch diving to his left.

ranish Jain 19-3-42-3, Kuldeep Sen 9-1-32-1, Sagar Solanki 10-3-21-1. **Group B brief scores: In Mangalapuram:** Kerala: 139 all out & 112/1 in 5.5 overs vs Chandigarh; (0/n 142/1) 416 all out in 115.4 overs (Arjun Azad 102, Manan Vohra 113, Shivam Bhamri 41, Arijith Singh 52, Tarandeep Singh 25, Vishu 31; Edhen Apple 10-4-61, Vishnu Vinod 2-26).

In Rajkot: Saurashtra: 172 & (0/n: 24/3); 286 all out 58.5 overs (DA Jadeja 27, Ravindrasingh A Jadeja 46, Prerak Mankad 56, HS Kotak 39, Parth Bhut 37; Harpreet Brar 5-106, Jassinder 3-84, Perit Dutta 2-86 bt Punjab: 139 all out & 125 all out in 39 overs (Uday Saharan 31; DA Jadeja 5-55, Parth Bhut 5-8).

In Pune: Goa: 209 all out in 82.1 overs vs Maharashtra; (0/n 19/0): 306/8 in 91 overs (Prithvi Shaw 31, Ruturaj Gaikwad 66, SS Nawale 95 n.o.).

Alexander Hendrickx (in pic) bagged a brace to give his side a 2-0 lead before Mandeeep Singh pulled one back for the Royals.

Ranchi Royals began the game on the front foot, keeping possession and moving the ball around neatly to make inroads.

Having sustained the early pressure by staying steady at the back, Vedanta Kalinga Lancers grew into the game and eventually broke the deadlock after Hendrickx (12') converted his dragkick from a penalty corner, giving



RCB's Gautami Naik, who scored a blistering 73 against Gujarat Giants, will be eyeing another explosive knock against Delhi Capitals on Saturday. x

LIVE 7:30 PM STAR SPORTS

to plug in the bowling department. Despite having some fancied names, their bowling so far has been led by uncapped pacer Nandani Sharma.

The Chandigarh girl has taken 10 wickets from five matches at an acceptable economy of 8.7. But India spinner Shree Charani (7 wickets, economy: 9.2) and Sneha Rana (1 wicket, economy: 12.4) are yet to hit their straps.

Skipper Smriti Mandhana

and Grace Harris have been a power-packed presence at the top, while Nadine de Klerk and Richa Ghosh have, as usual, propped up the middle and lower-order.

The rise of Gautami Naik, who made a fine 73 against Gujarat Giants, too has added to RCB's batting muscle. The former champions' bowling too has been in top shape with Sayali Satghare, De Klerk, Laurene Bell and Shreyanka Patil affecting regular strikes.

Kalinga Lancers enter final

BHUBANESWAR, PTI: Vedanta Kalinga Lancers booked their spot in the final of the Men's Hockey India League with a 2-1 win against Ranchi Royals at the Kalinga Stadium here on Friday.

Alexander Hendrickx (in pic) bagged a brace to give his side a 2-0 lead before Mandeeep Singh pulled one back for the Royals.

Ranchi Royals began the game on the front foot, keeping possession and moving the ball around neatly to make inroads.

Having sustained the early pressure by staying steady at the back, Vedanta Kalinga Lancers grew into the game and eventually broke the deadlock after Hendrickx (12') converted his dragkick from a penalty corner, giving

his side a 1-0 lead in the first quarter.

The Royals pushed forward in search of an equaliser, creating six circle entries and earning four penalty corners in the second quarter.

However, the Lancers continued to show why they're the most reliable defence in the league having conceded only eight goals thus far, keeping their opponents at bay to hold onto their one-goal advantage at half time.

Toofans into Qualifier 2 Earlier in the day, Hyderabad Toofans defeated HIL GC 2-0 in the eliminator to book a spot in Qualifier 2.

Shilanand Lakra (16th, 39th) scored a brace to help his side progress.

India face Uruguay first

NEW DELHI, PTI: Placed in four-team Pool B, India face Uruguay on March 8 in their opening match of the 2026 FIH Women's Hockey World Cup qualifiers in Hyderabad.

The hosts then play Scotland on March 9 and Wales on March 11 in their remaining pool matches. England, Korea, Italy and Austria form Pool A. The semifinals will be played on March 13 while the third-place playoff and the final will be held on March 14.

The other qualifying tournament will be held in Santiago, Chile, from February 28 to March 8. The top three teams each from the qualifiers in Hyderabad and Santiago will book the tickets for 2026 FIH Women's Hockey World Cup.

Villa edge Fenerbahce to seal last-16 berth, Nottingham Forest slip up

PARIS, AFP

Aston Villa secured their place in the last 16 of the Europa League on Thursday with a 1-0 win at Fenerbahce, while Nottingham Forest slid to a costly defeat away to Braga.

Celtic blew a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with Bologna and leave their qualification hopes

hinging on next week's final round of games as arch-rivals Rangers bowed out despite a first win of the competition.

Jadon Sancho's header midway through the first half in Istanbul earned Villa a sixth victory in seven European games, clinching a spot in the top eight and allowing Unai Emery's team to bypass the

knockout phase play-offs.

Matty Cash struck the post in the second half and Villa held on as goalkeeper Marco Bizot produced a string of key saves with Fenerbahce pushing for an equaliser.

Villa are second in the standings on 18 points and only trail Lyon on goal difference.

Lyon won 1-0 at Swiss side

Young Boys with a goal from former Arsenal player Ainsley Maitland-Niles to ensure their spot in the last 16.

Forest face the prospect of going into the play-offs after a limp display in a 1-0 loss to Braga, who climbed up to fifth.

Morgan Gibbs-White had a penalty saved early in the second half and Braga went



S Shrikrishna
Shrikrishna
knocks out top
seed Sitwala

BENGALURU, DHNS: Young S Shrikrishna edged out fellow PSPB cueist and top seed Dhruv Sitwala in the quarterfinals of the senior men's billiards competition at the National championships in Bahadurgarh, Haryana on Friday.

The 25-year-old, a former champion, played the big points well in a battle of equals to come through a humdinger (4-3) and set up a semifinal meeting with seasoned campaigner Siddharth Parikh of RSPB. Parikh outplayed Rishabh Thakkar of Maharashtra 4-1.

In the other semifinal, reigning champion Sourav Kothari goes up against young Rayaan Razmi. While Kothari defeated Brijesh Damani 4-2, Razmi prevailed by a similar margin over Dhvaj Haria.

Sancheti triumphs

Earlier in the morning, Aarav Sancheti's dominance over Rahul Williams continued as the Pune youngster scored a nervy 320-316 win to pocket the sub-junior boys' billiards title.

Results: Senior men: Billiards: Quarterfinals: S Shrikrishna (PSPB) bt Dhruv Sitwala (PSPB) 4-3 (85 (77)-151 (97), 152-94 (75), 150 (140)-9, 150 (71)-109, 88-152 (139), 21-150 (130), 150 (106) unf-112 (93); Siddharth Parikh (RSPB) bt Rishabh Thakkar (Mah) 4-1 (151-83, 150-16, 126-150 (79), 150 (146)-20, 151 (78)-111); Sourav Kothari (PSPB) bt Brijesh Damani (PSPB) 4-2 (18-150 (97), 150-102, 150 (134)-83, 83-150, 150 (72)-49, 150 (145)-0); Rayaan Razmi (Mah) bt Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) 4-2 (152-134, 150 (108)-141, 0-150 (129), 151-56, 2-151 (121), 151-133 (72)).

Sub-junior boys: Billiards: Final: Aarav Sancheti (Mah) bt Rahul Williams (TN) 320-316. **Snooker: Semis:** Aarav Sancheti (Mah) bt Rahul Williams (TN) 3-1 (61-50, 70-63-31, 59-34, 64-14); Owais Khan (MP) bt Nawang Khampa (HP) 3-2 (24-69, 48-27, 45-46, 78-49, 62-39).

IN BRIEF

Samarth to lead
in SZ meet

► Samarth Suresh will lead Karnataka in the South Zone Under-14 tournament, beginning in Vizianagaram on January 27, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

The team: Samarth Suresh (captain), Pavandeep Bhardadkane, Prabhav Pydha, Akhiera Allan W, Hannan Zaki Ahmad, Athreya Bhat (WK), Aaryan Nagesh, Krishna, M Neeraj, Samrat Aditya P, Ashith Sanjay Girish, Ajay A Lamani (WK), Cheran Tej Raju C, Ryan Tomar, Vyom Naidu. **Coach:** Adithya B Sagar. **Manager:** Mahalinga. **Strength & conditioning coach:** Sameer Ur Rahman; **Physiotherapist:** Vinay Kumar GD.

Anirudh's all-round
show spurs VSS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Anirudh followed up his three-wicket haul with a big half-century as VSS International Public School eked out a two-wicket win over Vibgyor High, Marathahalli in a KSCA under-14 II division school tournament for the BT Ramaiah Shield here.



Anirush returned the best figures of 3/28, and along with Pratham Nayak (3/56) and Jeevan KS (2/33), helped VSS restrict Vibgyor High to 175 all out in 39.2 overs.

VSS made heavy weather of what appeared to be a modest chase, eventually crossing the line in 42.3 overs after losing eight wickets (177/8). Anirudh anchored the chase with a knock of 81.

Brief scores: Vibgyor High, Marathahalli: 175 all out in 39.2 overs (Arush Banerjee 29, Nandagopal Sarath 46, Mohammed Rehan 27; Pratham Nayak M 3-56, Anirudh 3-28, Jeevan KS 2-33) It to VSS International Public School: 177/8 in 42.3 overs (Anirudh 81, JK Eshwar 35; Jithesh Neelareddy 2-20, Krishang Gupta 3-39). Soundarya Central School: 176/7 in 50 overs (Madhuchetan Reddy

Kishan blasts 76
before skipper
blazes to 82 n.o.
as India take 2-0 lead

RAIPUR, PTI

Ishan Kishan justified his national recall with a sensational 32-ball-76 while captain Suryakumar Yadav scored his first fifty after 23 innings as India decimated New Zealand by seven wickets for a 2-0 lead in the five-match T20 series here on Friday.

Ahead of the all important T20 World Cup, it all seems to be falling in place for India with Suryakumar (82 not out off 37) overcoming a prolonged lean patch and Kishan emerging as a destructive top-order enforcer. India were expected to chase 209 on a belter of a pitch but not with such ease after losing Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson by the second over of the chase.

Suryakumar and Shivam Dube (36 not out off 18) closed out the game in a canter as India gunned down the target in 15.2 overs.

SCOREBOARD	
NEW ZEALAND	INDIA
Conway c Pandya b Rana 19	Samson c Ravindra b Henry 6
Seifert c Kishan b Varun 24	Abhishek c Conway b Duffy 0
Ravindra c Arshdeep b Kuldeep 44	Kishan c Henry b Ish Sodhi 76
Phillips c Pandya b Kuldeep 19	Suryakumar (not out) 82
Mitchell c Pandya b Dube 18	Dube (not out) 36
Chapman c Abhishek b Pandya 10	Extras: (W-8, NB-1) 9
Mitchell Santner (not out) 47	TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 15.2 overs) ..209
Foulkes (not out) 15	Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-6, 3-128,
Extras: (B-4, LB-2, W-6) 12	Bowling: Henry 3-0-41-1, Duffy
TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 20 overs) 208	4-0-38-1, Foulkes 3-0-67-0, Santner
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-43, 3-98,	2-0-27-0, Sodhi 3-0-34-1, Mitchell
4-125, 5-129, 6-161.	0.2-0-2-0.
Bowling: Arshdeep 4-0-53-0,	Result: India won by 7 wkts.
Pandya 3-0-25-1, Rana 3-1-35-1,	PoM: Suryakumar Yadav.
Chakravarthy 4-0-35-1, Kuldeep	Series: India lead 5-match series
4-0-35-2, Abhishek 1-0-12-0, Dube	2-0.
1-0-7-1.	Third match: Guwahati (Jan 25).



Captain Suryakumar Yadav celebrates after scoring a half-century that powered India to a seven-wicket win over New Zealand in the second T20I in Raipur on Friday. AFP

Kishan, back in the side after a gap of more than two years, went berserk from ball one and

ended with 11 fours and four sizzling sixes. Kishan's knock actually would keep Sanju Samson on tenterhooks after back-to-back failures as Tilak Varma, when fit would take that number three position. In such a situation, Kishan stacking up necessary numbers could spell doom for the Kerala man.

His special knock included a flurry of pick up shots, pulls and even a reverse sweep.

Such was the timing and impact of the innings that Kishan got a hug from his skipper after mistiming a slog sweep off Ish Sodhi's bowling.

Suryakumar maintained the momentum generated by Kishan in the able company of

Dube, who too collected his fair share of sixes.

At the start of the chase, Samson could not carry on for long despite being dropped at deep square leg on the second ball of the innings.

The pressure piled up on India when trump card Abhishek's mistimed flick off Jacob Duffy to be holed out at deep square leg.

The counter attack from Kishan tilted the game in favour of India. The captaincy of Mitchell Santner left a lot to be desired as his decision to give Zak Foulkes the third over after two tight overs by Henry and Duffy, left a lot to be desired.

Earlier, Kuldeep Yadav regained form with two timely

strikes in the middle overs as India limited New Zealand to 208 for 6.

Rachin Ravindra (44 off 26) and skipper Mitchell Santner (47 not out off 27) took the attack to India in different phases of the game to ensure New Zealand got past 200-run mark.

Expecting heavy dew, skipper Suryakumar Yadav predictably opted to bowl with Harshit Rana and Kuldeep Yadav playing instead of injured Axar Patel and rested Jasprit Bumrah. Devon Conway (19 off 9) and Tim Seifert (24 off 13), fresh off BBL, got the Black Caps off to a flying start before falling in quick succession.

Power play	
Highest successful chases by India in T20Is	
209 vs NZ in Raipur, 2026	209 vs Aus vs Visakhapatnam, 2023
208 vs WI Hyderabad, 2018	207 vs SL Mohali, 2009
204 vs NZ Auckland, 2020	202 vs Aus Rajkot, 2013
Most successful 200+ chases	
Australia 7	
India 6	
South Africa 5	
Pakistan 4	
England 3	

Bangla appeal
beyond DRC remit

Scotland to
be named as
replacement today

NEW DELHI, PTI

A desperate Bangladesh Cricket Board has written to the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) of ICC requesting it to overturn the governing body's decision to hold the national men's team's T20 World Cup games in India but its appeal won't be heard as it is outside the remit of the sub-committee.

Even as the ICC has kept Scotland on stand-by, the BCB under Aminul Islam Bulbul, after being completely cornered, decided to use its last resort --- approach the DRC headed by Englishman Michael Beloff (Kings Counsel).

“Yes, BCB has approached the DRC of ICC as it wants to exhaust all its options. If DRC rules against BCB, then the only body that can be approached is Court of Arbitration of Sports (CAS) in Switzerland,” a BCB source said on the condition of anonymity. As per clause 1.3 of Terms of Reference of DRC: “The Committee shall not operate as an appeal body against decisions of the ICC or any

decision making body established under the ICC's Memorandum and Articles of Association or under any rules or regulations of the ICC...”

An ICC board source said: “Bangladesh can approach the DRC but if one looks at the rules, the case can't even be heard as the committee doesn't have the remit to hear an appeal which is against the decision made by the Board of Directors.”

It is understood that ICC chairman Jay Shah, who was in Namibia for the U-19 World Cup, is in Dubai now and a formal decision on Bangladesh's replacement would be announced by Saturday.



“The ICC Board Members are extremely angry with Aminul Islam Bulbul as to why before informing the global body, a press conference was held. Asif Nazrul is a persona-non-grata for the ICC but Bulbul shouldn't have allowed a press conference before informing their decision to the ICC,” the source said.

The ICC's DRC acts according to the British law and one of its most recent verdicts under Beloff came in 2018 when it had summarily rejected Pakistan Cricket Board's USD 70 million compensation claim against the BCCI for allegedly not honouring an agreement to play bilateral series in Pakistan.

Karthikeya, Prakhar shine

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karthikeya KP slammed an unbeaten ton while Prakhar Chaturvedi missed out on a well-deserved ton as Karnataka drove themselves to a position of strength on the opening day of their Col CK Nayudu Elite Group fixture against Chandigarh in Alur (3) here.

At stumps, Karnataka had reached a massive 369 for the loss of just two wickets after Karthikeya (155 not out) and Dhruv Prabhakar (70 not out) forged an unbeaten 210-run stand for the third wicket, after Chandigarh asked the



hosts to bat first. Karnataka got off to a solid start after Prakhar and Faizan Khan (45) put on 114 for the first wicket. Prakhar, joined by Karthikeya, added another 45 for the second wicket before the latter and Dhruv deflated the visiting attack with a double century stand. **Brief scores:** Karnataka: 369/2 in 91 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 95, Faizan Khan 45, Karthikeya KP 155 n.o., Dhruv Prabhakar 70 n.o.) vs Chandigarh.

RCFC, DYES FC in thrilling draw

BENGALURU, DHNS: In an enthralling battle, Anthony Rayan Wilson's late equaliser saw Real Chikkamagaluru FC hold DYES FC to a 4-4 draw in the BDFA A Division Football League Championships here on Friday.

Results: Real Chikkamagaluru FC: 4 (Ujval 18th, 40th, Yumnam Riland Meitei 22nd, Anthony Rayan Wilson 85th) drew with DYES FC: 4 (Chandhan SA 9th, 21st, 72nd, Mohammed Niyab 42nd). Jawahar Union FC: 1 (Lalminliam 29th) drew with Sree Gajanana FC: 1 (B Niroshan Mani 90th-6th); Technico FF: 3 (Sansam Kenin Meitei 15th, Ronn Jaurus Joel 35th, Geo Sab Kakkanaatu 85th) bt FC Deccan: 1 (Sai Srujan S 46th).

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA

DRIVING BECOMES EASY, AUTOMATICALLY.
GET AUTOMATIC CARS FOR COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE.



	6 Airbags ESP® ABS with EBD Hill Hold Control* Reverse Parking Sensors 3-Point ELR Seat Belts Seat Belt Reminder 3 Years or 100 000 km Warranty**
	CREEP FUNCTION (Easy to drive in bumper-to-bumper traffic)
	UNBEATABLE MILEAGE OF 25.75 KM/L**
	KICK-DOWN FUNCTION (Easy overtaking)
	HILL HOLD ASSIST

SPECIAL OFFERS	SWIFT ₹48 000* WAGONR ₹40 500*		SCAN TO CONNECT TO SHOWROOM NEAR YOU		E-BOOK TODAY AT WWW.MARUTISUZUKI.COM	Contact us at 1800-102-1800
-----------------------	---	--	--------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

*Terms & Conditions apply. *Offer includes consumer offer, exchange bonus and corporate offer (wherever applicable) on select models/variants and selected states. Maruti Suzuki reserves the right to withdraw offers at any point in time without any advance notice. All offers are applicable till 31st January, 2026 or till stocks last. Creative visualization. **The engine image shown is for Celorio VXi AGS variant and mileage shown is for Swift ZXI+ AGS variant. Fuel efficiency certified by Test Agency Under Rule 115(c) of Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989. ***The gearbox image shown is from the Swift ZXI+ AGS variant. Offers may vary subject to the model and variant purchased. Car models and accessories shown may vary from the actual product. Images used are for illustration purposes only. **3 years or 100 00 0 km whichever is earlier. *Hill hold control feature available in select variants and models only. ESP is the registered trademark of Mercedes-Benz Group AG.



Flavour of
the season

TASTY BYTES P02



NOT A SPORTSWEAR AD

this is aarya
she represented
the country in
swimming from Lindau
to Bergenz in Germany

she's an orchidian

in '25 alone, 7408 orchidians
participated in championships
across academics, sports, arts
& sciences - in India & the world!



ORCHIDS®
The International School

nurturing every kind of champion

Contact: 9999-412-999 | www.orchidsinternationalschool.com | 110+ Schools Across India

Bengaluru

Mumbai | Pune | Hyderabad | Chennai | Kolkata | Gurugram | Delhi | Jaipur | Jodhpur | Nagpur | Chh. Sambhaji Nagar
Ahilyanagar | Bhopal | Jabalpur | Indore | Sonipat | Rohtak | Hubballi | Dharwad | Tumkur | Dindigul | Coimbatore | Mahbubnagar

Interior stylist Pooja Naik, who has helped clients transition from neutral homes to dopamine-inspired spaces, observes a pattern. "Clients stop asking, 'is this correct?' and start asking, 'does this feel like me? Does it say who I am?' That shift changes everything. Because joy, like good design, works best when it shares space with you".

CROSS: 1, Paras 6, Say so 9, Bow-

CROSS: 1. Paras 6, Say so 9, Bow-wows 10, Scout
1. p-Ing, 2nd, M-all's 13, Everett 15, La-d' 17, En-
t 18, Police 19, Rene-W 20, Salted 22, Lena
4, Eiz 25, Trailer 26, S-mov 27, Marvel 28, MA
4, Eiz 25, Trailer 26, S-mov 27, Marvel 28, MA

DOWN: 2. Asch-s 3, A-us-e 4, Sor (en) 5, Sweet
2. Asch-s 3, A-us-e 4, Sor (en) 5, Sweet
2. Asch-s 3, A-us-e 4, Sor (en) 5, Sweet

ACROSS: 1. Oscar 6, Cobra 9, Samovar 10, Crept
11, Ropy 12, Lepus 13, Seckled 15, Wee 17, Port
18, Stride 19, Sawps 20, Chopin 22, Flee 24, Eon
25, Plouisy 26, Stuer 27, Gnie 28, Bites

DOWN: 2. Spite 3, Aspect 4, Kait 1, Moved
2. Spite 3, Aspect 4, Kait 1, Moved
2. Spite 3, Aspect 4, Kait 1, Moved

CROSS: 1. Twan 26, Save 28, Mod,
9, Recat-ed 12, Ar-jan 22, Liti-ary 23, Nebula
14, Ar-jan 23, Wives 16, Tilly 18, Snail
19, Liqueur 21, Honest 22, Butle 23, Elders
25, Pantic 26, Aide 28, Fulle

Weekend



The season is just right for some greenery indoors. A potted plant in the balcony too does it if you can't fit it into your living spaces

GREEN SHEEN

ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE



Sip away those inches

● SHILPI MADAN

Have you been rather indulgent, pouring in the elixirs during the party season? The New Year is here. Get ready to shrug off the unwanted kilos and bloating in 2026 by embracing the first-ingestion during the winter. Drink up the goodness of methi seeds and ajwain seeds soaked overnight, roasted or mixed in with warm water.

First cut
Ajwain water when consumed lukewarm on an empty stomach in the morning works beautifully during the winter. The warm nature of ajwain seeds together with the lukewarm water makes the absorption of the thermogenic qualities of the seeds easy and quick. This gives a power punch to your metabolism as your day starts and gifts you higher energy levels. Additionally, the nutritious sip keeps sniffles

and sneezes at bay. Soak a teaspoon of ajwain seeds in water in a copper glass overnight for best benefits in activating super digestion and bowel movements.

Goodness of methi
Pop in a few methi seeds with warm water as your first ingestion. Methi seeds work beautifully in glycaemic control and yield tremendous benefit for those with diabetes. It is known to ease off the inches and burn fat, especially if you are experiencing hormonal upheavals in the workings of the thyroid gland. You can soak the seeds in a glass overnight. A copper vessel is preferred as copper is known to be an active antioxidant. It promotes the production of collagen and helps in keeping the wrinkles away. Keep in mind you need to practise this consumption for a couple of months to be able to experience tangible results as personal biology differs from person to person.

Metabolic surgery can lead to remission of Type 2 diabetes

This procedure leads to sustained weight loss, improved insulin sensitivity and long-term control, or even remission, of Type 2 diabetes, explains **Dr Ramraj V N**, Senior Consultant – General, Gastrointestinal, Minimal Access and Bariatric Surgery, Aster Hospitals

For many patients living with long-standing Type 2 diabetes, daily medication, insulin injections and lifestyle changes often fail to deliver sustained control. Metabolic surgery is emerging as a life-changing option for such individuals, offering not just improved blood sugar levels but, in many cases, long-term remission of diabetes itself. Metabolic surgery is derived from the concept of metabolic syndrome, a cluster of conditions that significantly increase the risk of serious complications such as heart attack, stroke, kidney failure and vascular disease. Obesity, Type II diabetes, high blood pressure and abnormal cholesterol levels together constitute this syndrome. Surgeries performed

with the intention of controlling one or more of these conditions are collectively referred to as metabolic surgery. Since these procedures result in marked improvement in blood sugar levels and sustained remission of diabetes, they are also called 'diabetes surgery'. Apart from glucose control, metabolic surgery plays a crucial role in slowing the progression of diabetes-related organ damage. Patients often see a reduction in complications affecting the kidneys, nerves and blood vessels, issues that commonly diminish quality of life over time.

Rigorous pre-surgery evaluation at Aster Hospitals
Metabolic surgery has shown the most consistent results in obese patients with Type II diabetes, particularly those with a Body Mass Index (BMI) above 32.5. The procedure is not recommended for individuals with Type I diabetes or those who are insulin-dependent. At Aster Hospital, patients are put through a rigorous pre-surgical evaluation process. This includes detailed blood tests, assessment of pancreatic reserve through fasting and stimulated C-peptide and insulin levels, pancreatic antibody testing,



Dr Ramraj V N

endoscopy, imaging studies and consultations with a multi-disciplinary team comprising endocrinologists, cardiologists, pulmonologists and anaesthetists. Every patient is carefully assessed and scored using standardised systems to predict the likelihood of diabetes remission before recommending this surgery.

What metabolic surgery involves
Most metabolic surgical procedures involve reducing the size of the stomach and altering the route food takes through the intestines. These changes lead to favourable shifts in gut hormones, known as incretins, which help regulate blood sugar levels, appetite and metabolism. The outcome is sustained weight loss, improved insulin sensitivity and long-term control, or even remission, of diabetes.

Sri Sai Gold Palace opens its 8th branch on Kanakapura Road



H D Kumaraswamy cuts a ribbon to launch the 8th branch of Sri Sai Gold Palace on Kanakapura Road, along with T A Sharavana.

Sri Sai Gold Palace, one of Bengaluru's well-known jewellery brands, launched its 8th showroom at Raghavanahalli on Kanakapura Road recently. The new branch was inaugurated by H D Kumaraswamy, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries and Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, along with T A Sharavana, Proprietor, Sri Sai Gold Palace and Gilli Nata, a winner of Bigg Boss. Actor Rukmini Vasanth inaugurated the diamond jewellery counter at the new branch. At the inauguration, Kumaraswamy appreciated the dedication of Shrivana. "A devout follower of Shirdi Sai Baba, he established Sri Sai Gold Palace with a vision and earned the trust of the people". The brand has

expanded with seven showrooms across prominent localities in Bengaluru to make quality gold jewellery easily accessible to customers, and now the eighth branch has been launched on Kanakapura Road for greater public convenience. Kumaraswamy also stated that Sri Sai Gold Palace provides employment to over 500 people, thereby supporting many families. Speaking on the occasion, Sharavana said, "Due to traffic congestion, people often lose an entire day travelling across the city to shop. Keeping customer convenience in mind, the Kanakapura Road branch has been opened. This branch will benefit residents of Kanakapura Road as well as people from nearby places such as Mandya, Channarayana and Ramanagara". He added that with gold prices increasing sharply, customers should

plan purchases according to their needs.

Special offer
A special offer valid up to February 10 at all branches

- Rs 5,000 off on purchase of 10 gm of gold
- Rs 5,000 off on the purchase of one kg of silver
- No making charges for customers without savings schemes
- Rs 10,000 off on the purchase of one-carat diamond jewellery

"Sri Sai Gold Palace offers a wide range of jewellery in traditional, temple and contemporary designs, catering to all tastes", said Sharavana, at the inauguration. Bigg Boss contestants Rakshita, Ashwini Gowda, Kavya, Raghu, Dhanush Gowda and Spandana, along with several dignitaries and invitees, graced the event.

Get a move on... January is almost done!

Still in the late December holiday mood? **Shilpi Madan** helps you shrug it off and step into a brisk New Year



Get Going

The New Year is here with the meaningful resolutions you crafted staring at you. If the Jan slump is hitting you hard, take heart. It is tough getting back to the work mode after a relaxing vacation. As you plunge into overflowing inboxes and unpack, draw up a plan to crunch in those steps and supple moves in and outside the gym.

Winter wrestle
Finding it hard to get out of your bed early morning? Be kind to yourself. Re-work the yoga or Pilates class timing, schedule a high intensity workout a little later. More than the time, it is important to adhere to a routine and be consistent in your calorie burn plan. Every day is a new beginning.

Sun and song
Get the sunshine into your schedule. The best way to achieve this is to pick up an outdoor sport. A brisk game of pickle ball, or a badminton match, or playing tennis are cool contenders. Keeps you warm, cheerful and motivated. Play your choice of music or listen to the birdsong as you kickstart your day.

Walk on
Simple exercises like walking, jogging or training for a walkathon are the best ways to get those limbs going. Make sure the steady rhythm keeps you feeling energised. Go for low impact exercises to build up the routine, focus on joint health without burdening yourself suddenly with over-enthusiastic work-out routines.

Build up
Develop group dynamics. Sign up for a Zumba class or a dance session, weld in with morning walk buddies, get yourself going with a gym partner. It helps to cue into the schedules of

friends to ease yourself into the work-out zone as January kicks off. Make community building work for you.

New start
Pushing yourself out of the comfort zone helps in breaking the ennui of the daily routine. Try something new to jig in that element of interest. It could be cycling in the park with your child or swimming in a temperature-controlled pool. Dive in.

Work the joy in
Bring in potted plants on your balcony or window sill. Add a new plant. Talk to your leafy friends. Colour, paint, solve puzzles, resolve a jigsaw, take to a crossword or sudoku. Make your mind tick beyond the boring to-do lists on your screen. Get on it, every day. Distill the me-time. Improve hand-eye co-ordination and work on those joints especially when the nip in the air persists. Shoot a few baskets in your room – get the hoop fixed on the wall, or try out the dart board, or a game of snooker.

GET MINIMUM
20% OFF*

FULL PAISA VASOOL OFFER CHAHIYE?
SMART BAZAAR *Chahiye*

Parachute Advanced Gold Hair Oil Range

Parachute Advanced Hair Oil Range

Parachute Advanced Premium Hair Oil Range

Hair Serum Range

Male Grooming Range

SAB KA EK HI USOOL, AB KARENGE FULL PAISA VASOOL.

21 SE 26 JANUARY

Available At

A serum with Vitamin C and antioxidants protects your skin against sun damage and keeps it looking fresh

SKIN CARE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

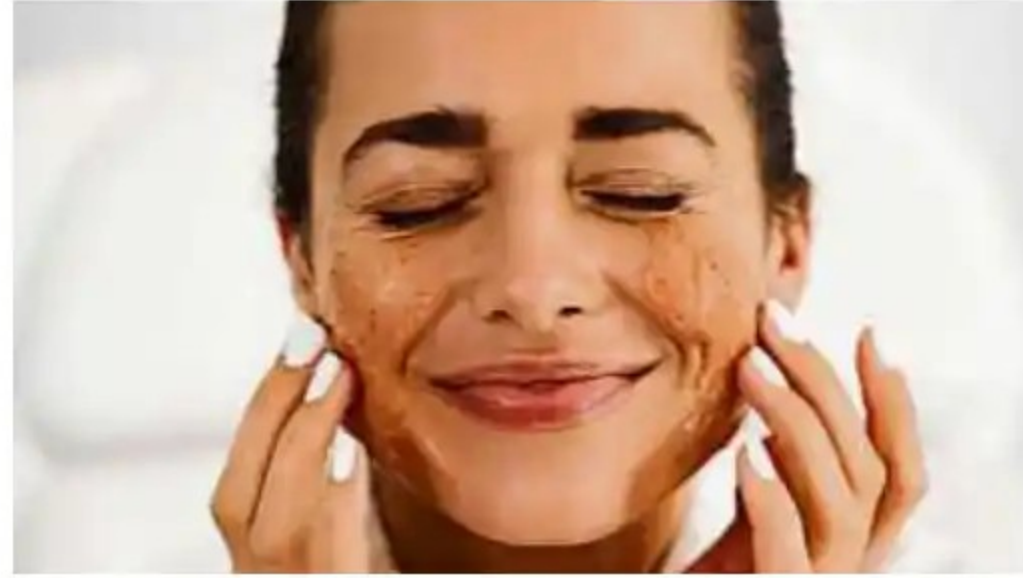
LIGHTER MOISTURISER

The weather is beginning to change. You need to switch from cold-weather creams to a light gel or lotion. Lighter lotions help avoid clogged pores and also keep your skin hydrated. Don't skip the sunscreen even if the day isn't very warm. Go for a sunscreen with a SPF of over 30.



GENTLE EXFOLIATION

Dull and flaky skin is common in the winter months and even when the cold weather lingers on as spring begins to set in. A gentle exfoliation once a week can get the sheen back to your skin. Remember to keep it gentle - over-doing it can lead to irritated skin.



Acupuncture and holistic medicine treat root cause of illness the natural way

The approach of acupuncture is holistic. Rather than suppressing symptoms, it goes deep into the cause of the ailment and works on addressing it to deliver lasting outcomes



In today's fast-paced world, health challenges are no longer limited to 'illness' alone. They are closely connected to stress, lifestyle, emotions and daily routines. From working professionals struggling with chronic back pain, migraine, fatigue and poor sleep, to couples facing infertility challenges, and senior citizens living with joint pain, knee pain, and insomnia, more people are now seeking safe, drug-free and preventive approaches to healthcare.



When the approach is holistic, it doesn't simply mask symptoms. It goes deeper into the cause of the ailment and supports the body in correcting the underlying imbalance. This is where acupuncture plays an important role. By working with the body's natural healing intelligence, acupuncture helps restore balance by improving blood circulation, reducing inflammation, supporting hormonal harmony and calming the nervous system.

At Olista Health, acupuncture and holistic therapies are designed to support the whole person - physically, emotionally

and energetically. The focus is not only on pain relief or symptom reduction, but on helping the body function better from within. Patients often look for a gentler, long-term solution that aligns with their lifestyle and supports overall well-being.

For couples undergoing treatment for infertility, IVF, or those who have faced multiple failed IVF attempts, acupuncture is increasingly used alongside medical treatment. Holistic support can help reduce stress, improve blood circulation to the reproductive organs, enhance egg quality, support a healthy endometrial lining and correct underlying imbalances that may disturb fertility. This integrated

approach also supports emotional well-being throughout the fertility and pregnancy journey, making the process feel more stable, supported and hopeful.

Acupuncture is a treatment method practiced for thousands of years, reminding you that health is not only about curing illness, but about strengthening the mind-body system and enhancing quality of life - naturally, safely and sustainably.

Olista Health
(Formerly Ayushyaa Clinic)
157, 36th Cross, 9th Main Road,
Jayanagar 5th Block
Bengaluru 560041
Phone: +91 99601 16055
Website: www.olistahhealth.com

Shades of spring

The vibrant hues of spring create pleasant living spaces. **Shilpi Madan** has some ideas



Astrologically, it is the year of the sun, and the spring palette brings in a rush of bright oranges, sunflower yellows, clear blues and cheeky pinks as mood-boosters. Celebrate the hues in your personal spaces.

Coral up

A spot of orange always lifts the spirits with its joyful complexion. Centre the decor around touches of coral and tangerine, with bobbing flowers - freshly cut or in terrariums - or a bright lampshade, a fragrant candle or even peachy curtains.

Wall alert

A feature wall marks its presence with a touch of joy, especially in sunny yellow. Make use of wallpaper with tiny floral prints to create a happy backdrop and turn the lights into pools of gold as the evening wafts in. A yellow planter by the wall creates a great conversation starter.

Pink in

Delicate bobs of pink in photo frames and curios, bath towels and baskets in the bathrooms, and on bedsheets and pillowcases bring in moments of joy. Spritzing a rose room freshener creates an energy rush as also hanging a picture of ponies on the wall.

Cloud dance

Ivory bathes the spaces in a soothing backdrop, lending the perfect canvas for you to play with brighter hues. Let the colour of the year form the background score as you arrange your books and bags, vanity caddy and toothbrushes in colourful picks to complete the spring palette.

Ceramic knee: Durable, quicker recovery, better mobility

Karnataka's second total ceramic knee replacement procedure, led by **Dr Harsha G N**, Senior Consultant - Orthopaedics, was performed at **Aster Whitefield Hospital**. The surgeon, with over two decades of experience and more than 5,000 joint replacement surgeries to his credit, explains how ceramic scores over other materials, as total ceramic knee replacement is emerging as a preferred option

(Gold Knee) are crafted entirely from high-grade ceramic material. This makes them exceptionally smooth, highly polished and remarkably durable. The implant's high-flex design mimics the movement of a natural knee closely, allowing the patient to achieve a faster and fuller range of motions.

One of the most compelling advantages of ceramic knee replacement is longevity. While standard knee implants typically last 20-25 years, ceramic implants are designed to function for over 30 years, significantly reducing the likelihood of loosening or long-term pain. The ultra-smooth surface also minimises wear, contributing to quicker recovery and smoother joint movement.

This advanced implant demands exceptional surgical precision. Such accuracy calls for extensive experience, skill and a deep understanding of knee biomechanics.

The beneficiary of this procedure was a former mayor from Tamil Nadu who had been struggling with severe knee pain and limited mobility, unable to walk even short distances independently.



Dr Harsha G N

Following surgery, she began walking the very next day, experienced minimal pain and regained mobility that restored both her independence and dignity.

Performed at Aster Whitefield Hospital, a care centre equipped with advanced operating theatres and dedicated physiotherapy support, the surgery highlights how advanced technology, surgical expertise and multi-disciplinary care can redefine outcomes for patients with debilitating joint disease.

As awareness grows, total ceramic knee replacement will emerge as a preferred option for patients seeking long-term performance, faster recovery and a more natural knee experience.

Morning sips

- Make your first fluid intake of the day natural - no artificial ingredients
- A sugary drink first thing in the morning is never a good idea
- If you prefer something warm, go for green tea



Flavour of the season

Tasty Bytes

Dishes with avarekai (hyacinth bean) are always a hit. Deepa Natarajan Lobo gets two chefs to spill the beans



PIC COURTESY: OOTA

Avarekai is a star in a home kitchen this time of the year. It adds a unique flavour with a dollop of nutrition to any traditional south Indian dish, be it upma, dosa or curry. Here are two interesting and easy recipes showcasing the magic of the buttery bean this season.

Avarekai Bath

By Dinesh Pojari, Chef

This flavourful rice dish is perfect for this season in Bengaluru. It is also ideal for festive occasions.

What you need

- 100 ml each of ghee and oil
- Four cinnamon sticks
- Two cloves
- One gm of green cardamom
- Five bay leaves
- 150 gm of onion (sliced)
- 50 gm of ginger garlic paste
- 15 gm of coriander leaves (chopped)

- 10 gm of mint (chopped)
- 600 gm of tomato (sliced)
- 15 gm of coriander powder
- Six gm of cumin powder
- Five gm of turmeric powder
- 20 gm of Kashmiri chilli powder
- 400 gm of avarekai (peeled and skinless)
- 600 gm of bullet rice

Preparation

Soak rice for one hour in room temperature water. Heat oil, add cinnamon, cloves, cardamom and bay leaves. Saute until fragrant. Add sliced onion and saute until translucent. Add ginger garlic paste and cook for 3-4 minutes. Add chopped coriander leaves, mint leaves and sliced tomatoes. Cook until tomatoes soften and reduce by half. Stir in salt, coriander powder, cumin powder, turmeric powder and Kashmiri chilli powder. Cook until fragrant.

Add avarekai beans and mix well. Add water and bring to a boil. Stir in the soaked rice and gently mix to combine. Let the rice boil, stirring occasionally until almost cooked. Level the rice, add ghee on top and cover. Cook for 15 minutes.

Remove from heat and let it rest for 30-45 minutes before serving.

Hithikida Avarekalu Saaru

By Bhoomika Vinay, Home chef

This saaru, a delicious, easy and flavourful dish from Karnataka, goes well with ragi mudde and dose.

What you need

- Two cups of avarekalu (without skin)
- Two teaspoons of cooking oil
- Half a teaspoon each of mustard seeds and jaggery
- Handful of coriander leaves
- One tamarind (small size)
- 15 small onions
- One tomato
- A pinch of turmeric
- One and a half cups of water
- Salt as required

For masala paste:

- Seven garlic cloves
- Three tablespoons of grated

coconut

- One teaspoon of coriander seeds
- Half a teaspoon of cumin seeds
- One-third teaspoon of fenugreek seeds
- Seven peppers
- Four Kashmiri red chillies
- A pinch of turmeric
- A few curry and coriander leaves

Preparation:

In a cooker, heat oil, add mustard seeds and let them splutter. Add the small onions and stir-fry till translucent. Add hithikida avarekalu and stir-fry till the raw smell goes. Add the masala paste, turmeric and gently stir for two minutes. Don't stir continuously as the avarekalu might break. Add one cup of water followed by tamarind paste, jaggery and salt. Close the lid and let it cook for one whistle. Release the pressure after five minutes and add chopped coriander leaves.

Enjoy hithikida avarekalu saaru with dose, rice, phulka, idli and ragi mudde.

Pro tip
Soaking the avarekalu in lukewarm water for 30-45 minutes helps remove the outer skin easily.



PIC COURTESY: BHOOMIKA VINAY

nandhana BANQUETS
We Make Your Moments Memorable

MAKE YOUR OCCASION SPECIAL

• Birthday • Naming Ceremony • Engagements
• Get Together • Wedding Reception • Beegara Oota

For reservation, please call:
+91 99019 85642, 080 4613 1111

ALSO AT: RAJAJINAGAR | KORAMANGALA | KAMMANAHALLI | NEW BEL ROAD
RR NAGAR | SAHAKAR NAGAR | KANKAPURA ROAD | BOMMASANDRA | NAGARSHAVI

www.nandhanahotels.com | banquets@nandhanahotels.com

Classifieds

More value, more impact

For your Classified Advertisements, Contact: 45557160/162/163/187/98451 14560 / 97318 10277 email: dhclassifieds@deccanherald.co.in

Sandalwood

Farmland

90 mins drive from

BANGALORE

International Airport

BEST WEEKEND GETAWAYS



ONE TIME INVESTMENT
LIFETIME PROFITS

Minimum
6534 sq ft

READY FOR REGISTRATION

BANK LOANS AVAILABLE

FLEXIBLE PAYMENT
OPTION AVAILABLE

MONTHLY
EMI
₹ 6999/-

Offer Price
Rs.

79

Per Sft

Booking Amount
Just ₹ 50,000/-

Retirement home | Pleasant Weather
Weekend holiday home

CALL FOR
MORE DETAILS:

6366549024

NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL
KR PURAM



ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಸ್ಕೂಲ್
ಕೆ ಆರ್ ಪುರಂ

65+ Years of Legacy

EXPERIENCED FACILITATORS

STATE-OF-ART LABS

Basketball | Football | Cricket
Volleyball | Skating & More



DYNAMIC LEARNING

STUDENT CENTRIC APPROACH

6 Acre campus
With International Standard Sports Facility



Dr. K P GOPALKRISHNA
Chairman, NPS Group of Institutions



Scan to Register

+91 91089 10101

REGISTRATIONS
CLOSING SOON AY 2026-27

Nursery to Grade 8

info@npskrpuram.com

www.npskrpuram.com

Sy No. 72/1, Hirandhalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Virgonagar Post, Bangalore - 560049

www.dstudio.in - 8/23/2025

 8880 463 463

Classifieds

More value, more impact >>

A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO OWN LAND

ENJOY RESORT LIVING, AND BE PART OF A DIVINE DESTINATION.

FREE MEMBERSHIP
in 5 star Resort

Mantralayam

ರಾಯರಿದ್ವಾರೆ...

E
Khata

Price Starts from
₹3,000/-
Per sqft

Sitrus Resorts & Spa
5 kms to Mantralayam Temple

Resort + Gated Community

APPROVED
DTCP
APPROVED

Buy a site, build your retreat villa, and enjoy exclusive access & benefits at the resort - luxury stays, wellness, dining, and spiritual experiences.

We are developing a 23-acre **GATED VILLA COMMUNITY** with premium plotted development.

Sitrus Resorts & Spa, a luxury 5-star resort just 5 kms from Mantralayam Temple, is officially underway. Construction begins in the next 2 months.

+91 92411 15463



PLASTIC FREE CAMPAIGN

In a leadership of
Sandeepa. B Reddy
JANUARY 25, SUNDAY
Proceeding from Sultanpet side via 'Kudure Mettilu'. Afterwards,

FLAG HOISTING AT THE PEAK OF NANDI HILLS

Starts at 5.30 A.M

Place SULTAN PETE (NANDI)

Interested people can join hands. T-shirts and breakfast arranged for all participants.

COME, LET'S JOIN HANDS TO PROTECT THE CLEANLINESS AND BEAUTY OF NANDI HILLS.

Sandeepa. B Reddy, President, Bhagath Singh Charitable Trust (Rg)